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AUTHOR Inganji, Francis
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ABSTRACT

This detailed report states that information and documentation services in Eastern and Southern African countries are expected to: (1) increase the efficiency of research, development, and training; (2) improve the efficiency and competitiveness of industry and technology, particularly of medium-sized and small concerns, by assisting professional and manual workers; (3) support planning and decision-making by parliament, government, administrative, and legal bodies; and (4) provide a better supply of information for individual citizens and social groups, and above all to improve their cooperation in various areas of social life. This document covers the present situation of information services in Eastern and Southern Africa; problems pertaining to the development of information services; work of some international organizations in these two regions related to information, documentation, and library development; new developments related to information and documentation services, e.g., the formation of the Southern African Documentation and Information System (SADIS); and a look at the future. (THC)

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STUDIE

DEUTSCHE STIFTUNG FÜR INTERNATIONALE ENTWICKLUNG

FRANCIS K. INGANJI

STATUS OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Hans-Böckler-Strasse 5 – 5300 Bonn 3 – Telefon 0228/4001-0

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STATUS OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

by

FRANCIS K INGANJI

1983

FOREWORD

The German Foundation for International Development through its Education, Science and Documentation Centre Bonn assists the Eastern and Southern African countries in the development of adequate and appropriate information and documentation services since the early 70's. A variety of instruments - ranging from multiple years scholarship programmes and short training courses to the promotion of evaluations and studies - has been applied to achieve the major goal, the improvement of the various nation's manpower capacity in the field of information science.

We now are especially pleased that this document has been compiled by one of our former scholarship programme participants, Mr. Francis K. Inganyi, thus showing that our efforts so far are bearing fruits in regard to the education and advanced training of information personnel from the subregion. We firmly believe that the study will be helpful in formulating or reassessing information and documentation policies throughout the countries under consideration. And, of course, the German Foundation for International Development itself will benefit from Mr. Inganyi's findings by evaluating and eventually restructuring its training programme components.

It is our desire that this document receives most apt interest, widely spread among policy and decision makers, development planners, and last but not least professionals in information, documentation and archives. One important achievement has been made with this study - many more are to follow.

Dr. Dieter Danckwortt
Director

Lutz Hüttemann
Information and Documentation Training Officer

Education, Science and Documentation Centre
German Foundation for International Development

I

FOREWORD

In the present situation and in the context of countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, the problems of documentation and information are intrinsically connected with those of development. A correct assessment of these problems can only be made within the framework and as a result of a development policy. Planning for development demands that one begins from as comprehensive an assessment as possible, of the potentialities and available resources as well as at analysis of the way in which they can be integrated into the dynamics of social and economic progress. It is at this level of data assessment that documentary actibities in general, and documentation and information in particular, can give their most important contribution.

Documentation and Information Services in Eastern and Southern Africa

It is not possible to deal with the question of documentation and information Services in the stated regions without reflecting on the common past of the various countries, countries which, for centuries, were submitted to colonial domination, which saw their wealth plundered, which saw illiteracy being systematically maintained, which saw science and culture used as force aimed at denying their national identity and at making them accept the coloniser's values as the only valid ones. The few documentation institutions existing in the Eastern and Southern African regions (at the time of independence of many of these countries) were exclusively at the service of the colonial power and were situated mainly in the urban centres completely divorced from the needs of the majority of the population. Even so, many of the countries in those two regions, had the necessary staff to guarantee a regular functioning of these institutions and, much less, training centres where they could be prepared.

The colonial powers used the last years of their domination to transfer archives and other types of documentation to the mother countries. The social and cultural liberation of the countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, is an integral part of the national liberation struggle and must necessarily include the setting up of or organisations which can publicise the African people's victories, support the technical and scientific training of new personnel and create a habit and a

taste for reading. Within this framework, it becomes imperative for these two regions to create new types of Information and Documentation services which can help in solving some of the stated problems.

FRANCIS INGANJI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been my wish to compile a report on the status of Information and Documentation services in Eastern and Southern Africa, for a long time. It is with great pleasure that this task has been accomplished in 1983, and I wish to extend my gratitude to various individuals and institutions who have made this work successful.

First my special thanks go to the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), for publishing this book. I extend my thanks to my wife Helen and daughter Victoria, for having borne with my busy schedule at home and weekends at work, in order to accomplish this task. Thanks also to the National Institute of Development Research and Documentation, University of Botswana, for helping with the typing of the manuscript. I should also at this juncture, extend my gratitude to the members of the May 23rd to 27th 1983 Information Experts Meeting in Arusha, who gave me information on the latest developments in their countries regarding information and documentation services. To all who in one way or another contributed to the success of this publication and whom I have not acknowledged personally, please accept my thanks.

FRANCIS INGANJI

Status of Information and Documentation Services in Eastern and Southern Africa and Future Prospects

Introduction

Development of information and Documentation services for development in many developing countries has been and is being stressed by both the United Nations and some International organisations. National Information and Documentation services in Eastern and Southern Africa should serve the purpose of initiating and supporting development of scientific and technical information services so as to keep pace with increasing knowledge and the growing needs for information of contemporary society. These should seek to ensure better access to all types of information from the various subject fields and missions, so that existing knowledge and information can be mobilised to meet the scientific, economic, technical, political and social problems of our time and thus avoid wasteful duplication and poor investment. These aims should be achieved through a broad spectrum of information activities each specifically focussed. Thus, information and documentation services in Eastern and Southern Africa are expected to do the following:

1. To increase the efficiency of research, development and training. Speeding up innovation is one of the basic pre-requisites for an enhanced quality of life.

2. Improving the efficiency and competitiveness of industry and technology, particularly of medium-sized and small concerns, assisting professional and manual workers, thus contributing to the improvement of working conditions.

3. To support the planning and decision-making by parliament, government administrative and legal organs.

4. To provide a better supply of information for individual citizens and social groups, and above all to improve their cooperation in various areas of social life.

Essential not only to the preparation of effective development policy measures, but also to the arousal of public awareness of the problems facing the developing nations, is the provision of processed information on economic and social development processes, and on concepts, programmes, and proposals for the solutions of the problems of under-development. Such information must comprehend the multiplicity of activities involved and be adaptable to the differing needs of decision-makers, planners, politicians, experts engaged in the practical application of development policy, researchers, educationalists, journalists, and others active in the sphere of development policy. Such data to be up to date, systematically presented, generally available and readily accessible, national, regional and international information systems are prerequisites.

The importance of scientific and technical information to economic and social progress is being appreciated to an increasingly large extent by those responsible for policy-making in Eastern and Southern Africa. The possibilities open to these countries to avail themselves of information for development planning, economic and industrial development are with only few exceptions very restricted. Infrastructure, organisation, expertise and financial means are inadequate. Measures of international organisations such as UNESCO designed to improve the information services in these two regions can prove to be effective only if these countries themselves are effectively supported by the industrial countries.

In these two regions, progress in research, and technological development, in industry, administration and politics depends decisively on the extent to which information and knowledge can be made available quickly in a compact and relevant form and also practically applied. Research and technological development must provide the bases for improved living conditions of people in these two regions. Their findings should contribute to a greater efficiency of the economies of the countries in the region and the solution of social problems. It becomes therefore imperative to extend and improve information services and thus increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of research and development and to speed up innovation. It is my concern therefore of the crucial role information and documentation services play in national development that I am undertaking to assess their development in these two regions.

Information contained in this book covers the following:

1. The present situation in Eastern and Southern African regions regarding information services;

2. Problems pertaining to the development of information services in these two regions;

3. Work of some international organisations in these two regions, related to information, documentation and library developments.

4. New developments in these two regions related to information and documentation services, e.g. the formation of the Southern African Documentation and Information System (SADIS).

5. A look into the future.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
1	Present Status of Information and Documentation Services in Eastern and Southern Africa.	1
2	Southern Africa	32
3	Conclusions from the present status	74
4	The role of International Organisations in the Development of Information Services in Eastern and Southern Africa.	89
5	Future Prospects and Lines of Development of Information and Documentation Services.	96
6	Recommendations for the future development of Information and Documentation Services in Eastern and Southern Africa	109
7	Concluding Remarks	120

CHAPTER I

PRESENT STATUS OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Services available in most of the countries of the two regions are provided mostly by libraries (public, municipal, government departmental, special libraries, University libraries, etc), archives, museums and documentation centres. It should be noted by readers that documentation services in these two regions are relatively limited to a few research stations. In most of the countries of these regions information services are independent of each other both at national and regional levels, and that there is very little coordination. I will, at this point, take examples of some countries in Eastern Africa, and some in Southern Africa, to show their information services profiles, so that a clear picture of what sort of services exist in these regions can be brought out.

A. Eastern Africa

Under Eastern Africa I will treat Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and Tanzania.

B. Southern Africa

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

C. Indian Ocean Islands

Mauritius

Eastern Africa

Kenya

I. Structure and Organisation

1. Present Position

There are well over 100 different types of libraries in Kenya, varying from very small ones in Government ministries to the University library. The types of libraries existing in Kenya can be grouped into four categories as follows:

1. Academic Libraries

These are libraries in the institutions of higher learning. They include:

The University of Nairobi Libraries with its eight sub-libraries
Kenyatta University College Library
Kenya Polytechnic Library
Kenya Science Teachers College Library
Egerton College Library
Kenya Technical Teachers College Library
Kenya Institute of Education Library
Kenya Institute of Administration Library

These libraries are at differentstages of development. The two University libraries are comparatively very well provided with the requisite resources i.e. funds, manpower and book stock, although due to rising costs of books and journals, the acquisition rate is reduced every year. Learning Resource Centres are under construction in the seventeen Primary Teacher's Colleges. Manpower to run these centres underwent a year's in-service course in 1980. It is expected that within the next year or two, each of the seventeen Primary Teachers' Colleges will have a reasonable resources centre. Academic libraries serve a defined clientele i.e. students and staff of the respective institutions. However, members of public with specific needs are given assistance in obtaining the information they need.

1. 1. 2. Public Libraries

These are libraries which are designed to serve the general public. Usually they provide popular literature. The main public libraries in Kenya are:

Kenya National Library Services
The Nairobi City Libraries

The Kenya National Library Services Board was established in 1967 by an Act of Parliament to provide lending library services for the whole country. There is the Headquarters library in Nairobi and branch libraries in all provincial headquarters. It is intended to establish branch libraries in all 40 districts within the next 20 years. During the current development plan 1979-84 it is

expected that ten district libraries will be established. The Board also has a fleet of Mobile libraries attached to Nairobi and provincial libraries which serve the city or town environs. Eventually the Board is expected to provide a library in each district.

The Nairobi City libraries consist of the MacMillan Library and two branches in other parts of Nairobi. A multi-purpose hall including a children's library to be erected in Nairobi Uhuru Park has been planned for. Although the MacMillan library is the oldest library in the City, its impact on the city population is minimal. The budget is almost nil and very little growth is taking place. To use the Council libraries one has to pay a subscription of 10/- (1US$) per year for every book one wants to borrow. One has even to pay for reference service or the use of newspapers and the Africana collection. These charges have made it difficult for the ordinary people to make use of the library resources.

The growth of the council libraries has been affected by the economic constraints and very few books are acquired each year. There has been talk of a merger with the Kenya National Library Services, but nothing has so far materialised.

Although established for a slightly different purpose, the Ministry of Information Libraries serve similar purposes as K.N.L.S. and both institutions tend to duplicate their services. Both the Kenya National Library Services and the Nairobi City libraries, have children's wings. But due to shortage of relevant books, the children tend to read whatever is available within a short time and then go away.

1. 1. 3. Special Libraries

These fall into several categories and include:

Government libraries
Research Institute libraries

They are established to serve a special group of interests generally related to the needs of the organisation they serve. It is interesting to note that although these are libraries which should be properly staffed, these libraries are very poorly staffed. Except a few Ministry libraries, the bulk of special libraries in Kenya are staffed by unqualified staff. They are also housed in inadequate accomodation and are poorly organized. One encouraging development is increased awareness among Government Ministries of the value of libraries.

1. 1. 4. School Libraries

Libraries hardly exist in Kenyan schools and where they exist they are poorly equipped and organised. It is possible for schools to borrow 200 books per term from the Kenya National Library Services, on payment of an annual subscription of Sh. 100/- (US$10). Not many schools have taken the advantage of this service. It may also be added that the bulk of registered users in the adult sections of the K.N.L.S. Board libraries are students.

A number of secondary schools, especially the large ones, have some reasonable libraries. However, even these are faced with such problems as lack of suitable books, lack of funds, and hardly any has trained manpower. School libraries are generally organised by an interested teacher with full teaching load. Thus far we can see that we have in Kenya all types of libraries though they are at different stages of development.

1. 1. 5. Bibliographic Control

Kenya is one of the few countries without a national bibliography or a national bibliographic agency. K.N.L.S. has however taken up this challenge and have now established a bibliographic section which it is hoped will produce the national bibliography. For a start, this section has already compiled a directory of local publishers and has written to all publishers asking for copies for entry into the bibliography. The law governing the deposit of published material - "The Books and Newspapers Act, 1960", requires three copies to be deposited with the Registrar of Societies. Copies

are then deposited in the University Library, K.N.L.S. and the Kenya National Archives. However the Act is not comprehensive enough.

The Library of Congress field office produces quarterly an Accession List and this is regarded as a national bibliograply not only for Kenya but also for the rest of Eastern African countries. Kenyatta University College Library senior staff are involved in compilation of retrospective subject bibliographies and several have already been published. The first issue of "Directory of Libraries in Kenya by Mr. J.R. Njuguna of K.U.C. was issued in 1977. A second edition covering not only libraries, but also documentation centres and archives in Eastern African Region is in press and should be published within the next two months by Africa Book Services, Nairobi from whom copies could be obtained.

1. 1. 6. Documentation Services

Except the Ministry of Agriculture, there are no documentation services as yet in the country. The Kenya National Archives is in the process of establishing a national documentation service based on Government generated documents. At the national level, the National Council for Science and Technology is in the process of formulating proposals on the establishment of the National Documentation Centre. Although no decision has been made on the mode and operation of such a centre, the N.C.S.T. see its role as that of coordination of the existing information resources rather than the centre themselves.

1. 1. 6. 1. Ministry of Agriculture

Currently the Ministry is running two separate services, i.e.:

documentation, and
library

Plans are afoot to amalgamate the two services into one department under the Head of Documentation and Library Services. The Library is one of the oldest libraries in Kenya and has a very comprehensive agricultural material especially

Government publications. The Kenya Agricultural Documentation Centre (KADCC) main role is to collect, process, store and make available all worthwhile documents relating to Kenya Agriculture. Its efforts to disseminate such information KADCC produces "Kenya Agricultural Abstracts" (3 issues issued and is also in the process of putting all material on micro-fiche and these will be made available for use in all provincial centres).

Plans are also underway to improve agricultural libraries in the provinces.

1. 1. 7. The National Archives

In the recent past the National Archives has taken up a number of programmes in an attempt to make the service more effective. Starting off with an oral tradition project 3 provinces are already covered - Central, Coast, Western and the Rift Valley. A lot of these materials have been collected and put on tapes. This institution was also fortunate for it acquired the former Kenya Commercial Bank building. This has solved their space problem for the time being, and they have now moved from the former headquarters in Jogoo House. Plans are also underway to build a purposeful Archives building which is hoped to be finished within this development plan.

Record centres have also been created in 3 provinces i.e. Nairobi, Coast and Western while one is underway in the Rift valley. These, it is hoped, would reduce congestion in the headquarters whereby more space is expected to be taken by the Archives proper. A record Management Appraisal Schedule has already been drawn and it is already being discussed in the Directorate of Personnel. Management (DPM). Once this is approved it is going to be a government document which will govern the evaluation for retention and destruction of records. The Library and the Documentation Centre are being developed closely together. It is expected that in future they will operate under one head.

Another important development is the creation of an Archives Office in London with two senior members of staff stationed there. They have also been accorded full diplomatic status. This office is trying to locate and collect Kenyan documents abroad be they published, unpublished, printed or non-printed. So it is collecting anything with Kenyan information regardless of the carrier (format).

On the staff side, the Department has ten professionals on the base and nine in training abroad. A lot of paraprofessionals have already been trained in the Kenya Polytechnic and Ghana.

1. 2. Problems

All the libraries we have in Kenya are faced with common problems though at different levels. These can be summarised as follows:

1. 2. 1. Manpower

There is a great shortage of trained manpower in the fields of Librarianship and documentation. As we have seen above, only the major libraries can boast ofreasonable numbers of properly qualified staff, but even here there are several vacant positions that cannot be filled. The main cause of this shortage is lack of training facilities in the country. Manpower training has always been done overseas or at Makerere University College. It has not been possible to send students to Makerere during the last few years and overseas training has become impossible as the cost of training increases. In Kenya, the Kenya Polytechnic runs a one year course for para-professionals. There has been talk of establishing a post-graduate training school in the University but there are no signs of such training in the near future. Kenyatta University College is offering a one year postgraduate inservice course for the Ministry of Basic Education for personnel who will man the proposed Learning Resource Centres. A few more courses are likely to be run during the next two years. Within the Diploma of Education programme, K.U.C. Library offers two elective courses on School Librarianship. It is expected that this will be extended to B.Ed. and Post-graduates Programmes in the College. This, it is hoped, will meet the needs of school libraries.

1. 2. 2. Accommodation and Equipment

Majority of Libraries, especially those in Government departments and institutions are housed in inadequate premises. Indeed, except the Kenya National Libraries, almost all others have inadequate accomodation.

Majority of our libraries lack the necessary equipment for effective dissemination of information. There is only one bindery at the University of Nairobi Library. Reprography facilities are quite inadequate.

1. 2. 3. Books

Another weak area is lack of suitable and relevant reading material, especially in the field of children and new literature population. The bulk of books available in our libraries are imported and with the increased price of books and inadquate funding, most libraries are not able to acquire adequate stocks.

1. 2. 4. Finances

The level of funding of almost all libraries does not match the important role the libraries are expected to play.

1. 2. 5. Cooperation

There is no formal agreement on interlibrary cooperation in Kenya. This does not mean that inter-lending never happens, but the informal lending that exists, is very much a gentleman's understanding. There are no union catalogues and therefore it is not possible to know what resources are available in the country. However, in the field of periodicals an attempt has been made by the publication of the "Periodicals in Eastern African Libraries: a Union List" by the University of Nairobi Library. Although this list is not yet exhaustive, it is a remarkable attempt. One thing that is revealed in the list, is the extent of duplication in acquisition of periodicals. The subject of Library Cooperation has received greater attention in conferences but no formal agreement has been reached yet. There are a number of problems which have contributed to this situation, chief of which are:

i. lack of information on available resources

ii. distances and communication

iii. lack of adequate resources such as manpower, materials and finances.

Thus Kenya is in a situation where library development is uncoordinated. As a result of this, one finds a lot of unnecessary duplication. For instance in the field of medicine we have three libraries on the same site and all duplicating their services.

2. Future Development Plans

There are several development and expansion programmes, chief of which are:

2. 1. Learning Resource Centres

Each of the 17 Primary Teachers Colleges will have a learning resource centre consisting of a multi-media library, micro-teaching suite, production workshop. The objectives of these centres is to support through provision of information, qualitative improvement of primary school education. One centre is already complete and eight others are due to be completed soon.

2. 2. Academic Libraries

The main area of development is in new library buildings. Egerton College building is due for completion soon while construction for the Main University Library has been started. When complete in another three or so years, this library to be known as the Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library, should be able to hold about a million items. Computerisation and mechanisation of certain services and operations is envisaged. Kenyatta University College is busyputting up a new library building.

K.U.C. Library ten year development proposals envisages development of:

- a national educational documentation service
- an organisation structure based on subject specialisation
- a sound library education programme to be offered to all education students
- a sound user education programme
- a technical unit consisting of bindery and photographic units.

Three new colleges to train secondary school teachers to the diploma level are being established. There is also possibility of establishment of a second University in the near future. The Ministry of Economic Planning has plans to establish District Information and Documentation Centres.

3. Manpower Situation

The manpower problem has already been highlighted above. The situation is very bad in special libraries although even in major libraries htere are several vacancies which cannot be filled. The main problem is lack of training facilities in Kenya for professional training. Post-graduate training is still being undertaken overseas but the rising costs of University fees especially in U.K. has reduced drastically the number of candidates who can be sponsored. At the para-professional level, a one year course for library assistants and Archives assistant are mounted at the Kenya Polytechnic with a total intake of about 60 students. K.U.C. Library is also mounting a course for library assistants who will work in the Learning Resource Centres in the Primary Teachers Colleges. A Library Science Panel has been established at the Kenya Institute of Education. This Panel has now approved a national syllabus for training library assistants. The syllabus has been recommended to the Kenya National Examination Council. The syllabus covers five core papers:

- Library and Society
- Management
- Sources of Information and Reference
- Classification
- Cataloguing

and a number of options such as

- Non-book media
- Documentation

K.U.C., K.S.T.C. and K.T.T.C. have library education programmes in the education diploma courses which aim at giving the future teachers some basic skills and knowledge on the organisation and operations of school libraries.

Future Proposals

i. Development of two year Diploma Programme at the Kenya Polytechnic

ii. Establishment of a school of Librarianship at either K.U.C. or University of Nairobi. A committee has been established to update the proposals for the Government.

iii. There has been a concrete proposal to establish a faculty of Information Systems at the proposed second University.

4. Need for External Assistance

There is a great need in Kenya for such assistance in almost all fields of information handling but especially in

- manpower development including short courses for both library and information personnel and teacher/librarians.
- Reprographic Equipment
- Learning material - production.

Tanzania

Introduction

The Tanzania Research Information Service (TANRIS) is a newly established unit of the Tanzania National Scientific Research Council. It is also the National Scientific and Technological Information Focal Point as defined in the UNESCO General Information Programme. In this capacity TANRIS has the role of coordinating scientific and technological information activities in Tanzania.

TANRIS Activities

TANRIS has been established to provide information services related to research and development, and has been assigned three distinct roles:

i. The role of a national focal point; which is to coordinate local services and resources and provide channels for contact with international organisations, associations, and services as well as to promote the formulation of national policies;

ii. The role of an operative agency providing certain services directly to users;

iii. The role of a funding agency which makes resources available to existing or planned local information services.

In the role of an operative agency, TANRIS has identified and carried out a number of information projects. The major project carried out in 1980 was the compilation of a comprehensive bibliography of agricultural research undertaken in Tanzania. By the year's end the project was still continuing.

TANRIS during 1980, completed a study initiated the previous year, on Tanzania's scientific and technical potential (STP).

"Tanzania Scientific and Technical Potential" was an information project designed to determine:

- the human resources engaged in research and experimental development (R&D) and related activities;
- the financial resources committed to Research and Development;
- the physical resources committed to scientific production and related activities;
- and the scientific and technological information centres.

Work on the scientific and technical potential was therefore concerned with identifying research institutions, Government ministries or departments, parastatal organisations and private institutions engaged in research and development.

To facilitate information dissemination, TANRIS made arrangements to provide photocopy services. First, TANRIS entered into an agreement with the British Library Lending Division. This agreement makes it possible for TANRIS to purchase coupons for photocopy requests from the British Library. The coupon arrangements ameliorates time-consuming foreign exchange transactions between TANRIS and the British Library. Through this photocopy service, the vast collection of scientific and technical periodicals belonging to the British Library has been made available to the Tanzanian Scientific Community. Therefore, the Tanzania researcher can now make requests for photocopies of important scientific articles available in international journals through TANRIS. Secondly, TANRIS has purchased modern plain-paper photocopy machines. The machines will be used to provide photocopy services from TANRIS and other centres of heavy demand.

Since its inception, TANRIS had plans to introduce online information retrieval services to Tanzania. Therefore, during this year, online terminals were purchased from abroad. Arrangements with the online vendors in North America and Europe to utilise their services were finalised. Vendors engaged were Dialog-Lockheed and Orbit-Systems Development Corporation (SDC) from the U.S.A. and Blaise-British Library and Information Retrieval Service - European Space Agency (IRS-ESA) from Europe. At the local level, however, technical problems were experienced. Therefore, online information retrieval services were not actually provided to end-users by the year's end. Document back-up to the online retrieval services

were not actually provided to end-users by the year's end. Document back-up to the online retrieval services would be provided through the TANRIS photocopy service arrangement with the British Library International Lending Division.

During the year under review, TANRIS entered into a cooperation agreement with the U.S. National Technical Information Service (NTIS). Under the agreement, TANRIS is responsible for the promotion and sale of NTIS information products and services in Tanzania. On its part NTIS is responsible for providing training to TANRIS personnel to promote the utilisation of NTIS and other scientific and technical information for national development. Potential scientific and technical information users were identified and a monthly altering abstract newletter was sent to them. The newsletter contained information selected for its possible application in developing countries. TANRIS received orders for NTIS documents from users in Tanzania and forwarded the same to NTIS. TANRIS has opened a deposit account at NTIS. This arrangement eliminated the foreign exchange problem for information users in Tanzania.

TALIS Activities

The Tanzanian Government with the assistance of the Irish Government, during 1980, launched the Tanzania Literature Service (TALIS). TALIS is based at the Library, Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Science, University of Dar es Salaam at Morogoro. TALIS is a replacement of a similar service previously provided by the East african Literature Service from the former East African Forestry and Agricultural Research Organisation in Nairobi, Kenya. The essence of TALIS is the provision of copies of the content pages of the latest scientific journals held by the Library at the Faculty of Agriculture in Morogoro. By scaccning the content pages of the journals, users, scattered all over Tanzania, can request from Morogoro for photocopies of the articles appearing in those journals to suit their requirements. As it can be expected, by being based at the Faculty Library at Morogoro, TALIS coverage is in the fields of agriculture, forestry and veterinary science and related areas. In addition to the TALIS project, the Faculty of Agriculture Library produced, during the year, a bibliography of agricultural research undertaken at the Faculty since its inception.

Other Institutions Activities

Other institutions given the information function in their enabling parliamentary legislations have been operating some information activities in Tanzania The following account summarises the information activities undertaken.

1. Tanzania Library Service (TLS). TLS has continued to produce abstracting indexing publications. During 1980, an abstracting and indexing periodical was produced in the field of agriculture.

2. Tanzania Industrial Studies and Consulting Organisation (TISCO). TISCO has been compiling a directory of manufacturing enterprises in Tanzania. This exercise was continued during the year. In its task of coordinating research in industry carried out within Tanzania, TISCO, was gatnering considerable information relating to industrial research and studies done in Tanzania.

3. Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO). TIRDO being one of the newly created institutions was busy establishing its institutional foundations. At the same time, TIRDO during the year 1980 took steps to establish an information service to support industrial research and development activities.

4. Other institutions given information functions as part of their duties but were too new to register signification activities include:

   - National Institute for Medical Research;
   - Tanzania Pesticides Research Institute;
   - Tanzania Agricultural Research Organisation;
   - Tanzania Livestock Research Organisation;
   - Tanzania Forestry Research Institute;
   - Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute.

The University of Dar es Salaam also provides information to students and staff. It has several branch libraries to serve specific subject disciplines.

Eastern and Southern African Management Institute

This institute has got a s pecialised library which provides information to participants in courses run at the institute. It is consulting institute and information e.g.

- Health Services
- Transport and Communication
- Management Information Systems
- Human Resources Management, etc.

can be obtained at the institute.

Latest Developments

National Information Policy

A committee under the chairmanship of E. Kaungamno is working on the terms of reference of a National Information Policy.

Other Developments

Local government Act (1983), has been promulgated empowering local authorities to fund, create and operate public and school libraries within the urban or district concerned. This has led to the following:

Impending complete decentralisation of the Tanzania Library Services into Regional libraries, with the Tanzania National Country Library maintaining centralised services, consultancy, and training only, and overall planning.

Library Training

There are plans to establish a library school in the University of Dar es Salaam, by the year 1985. A Library Development policy in Tanzania is presently complete and will be made official in a few months time.

The Tanzania Library Association

This association has now been rejuvenated and offers:

1. Bi-monthly newsletter
2. Bi-annual "Someni" journal
3. Short courses/seminars

Uganda

I. Depository Law

The country has two Depository Laws:

I. I. Makere University Library which was established in 1922 to serve the staff and students of Makerere as a technical institution became a Deposit Library in 1957. Given its almost sixty years of existence and for most part as an East African institution, Makerere University Library has the largest collection of all the Libraries we have in the country. The Makerere University Library Service as it is called, is made up of the Main Library Service at the University Campus and seven sub-libraries established along the lines of specific fields of study, namely, Medicine; Education; Adult Education; Veterinary Medicine; Social Sciences; Librarianship and Agriculture.

The Main Library stock is about 500,000 volumes, 200,000 of which are accession books and pamphlets while the rest are periodicals. Before the destructive years of Idi Amin, this stock used to be augmented by 9,000 books every year. The stock of the sub-libraries ranges between 50,000 and 20,000 volumes. The main University Collection includes the following:

a. Africana Section - It covers material on Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and some neighbouring states.

b. University Collection - Material from or about Makerere University.

c. Legal Deposit: Material published in and/or about Uganda. Materials published by the United Nations and all its agencies. As well as OAU and ECA Publications.

d. Archives

The Africana section maintains a Union Catalogue of East African holdings of the University of Nairobi, Dar es Salaam and Makerere.

The main library publishes:

a. An Accession list of new acquisitions quarterly.

b. A Union list of periodicals for the University Library Service

c. An annotated list of theses held by Makerere University Library

d. An authoritative list of Ugandan authors is in the process of being started.

The Medical Library compiles a Medical bibliography in conjunction with the Universities of Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. The Education Library publishes a Bibliography of Education in East Africa.

1. 2. . Institute of Public Administration Deposit Library and Documentation Centre (1969)

The argument behind the establishment of a Deposit Library and Documentation Centre was that there was in the country a grave shortage of teaching material of an illustrative nature gathered and available in readily accessible form. It was observed that many public documents of value were produced. But the majority of the material was given only limited circulation and then filed away. After a short time those documents were either lost or so overlaid with other irrelevant and useless materials that the task of finding them became virtually impossible and certainly time-wasting. This meant, that those doing research had to waste a lot of time in trying to gather background material before they could beging to study any subject in depth. Those involved in decision-making and policy formulation were having to rely either on their memory or waste a lot of time in consulting numerous other Ministries or departments in order to find basic information which was essential to the formulation of policy.

The material in question at that time included the following:

a. Minutes of various committees

b. Annual Reports of Districts, Regions, Ministries and Departments.

c. Annual Estimates of revenue and expenditure and related documents for Districts.

d. Annual Reports of various agencies of Central and non-Central government agencies and parastatal bodies.

e. Reports of Trade Unions and other Organisations.

f. Conference Reports and Proceedings

g. Government statements.

h. Press or Public releases on specific areas of government policy.

i. Field trip notes of those engaged in research which are not of sufficient importance to be included in the final thesis or paper.

The act itself covers a wider range of publication than what is listed here in its definition of a "book".

1. 2. 1. Location of the Centre

Since the main concern was information relating to administration, after considering a number of places, it was decided that the Institute of Public Administration, which is responsible for in-service training of all levels of Public Officers, should house the Deposit Library and Documentation Centre.

1. 2. 2. Implementation of the Law

The law setting up the Centre took effect from July 1969. After Amin came to power in January, 1971, not much has been accomplished by way of effectively establishing and developing the centre.

The Institute which is housing the centre was planned to develop in three phases: First, Second and third phase. The second phase was to have the physical facilities for the Deposit Library and Documentation Centre. The Institute is up to this day operating under the first phase with just enough room to house a small library

for a small number of staff and course participants. Hence the Deposit Library and Documentation Centre as envisaged has no accomodation. Lack of accomodation has meant that the centre could not have the budget and personnel to carry out activities of a Deposit library and documentation centre. Hence the little that has been done is the work of a staff and a budget which are supposed to be for the Institute of Public Administration Library, as an Institutional Library. Thelack of a budget and personnel also means that the law could not be vigorously enforced Hence, where publishers or authors have not sent what they have published or written many have not been informed or reminded because of lack of the necessary machinery to do so.

1. 2. 3. Some Developments

In 1973 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assisted the country with an expert to assist in the establishment of the Centre.

On her arrival two major tasks were embarked upon, namely:

a. collection of as much as possible of what had been published in the country.

b. the working out of a scheme for the classification of such material.

UNDP also assisted the centre with transport in the form of a car to collect the material.

A scholarship was given to a person who was understudying the expert to do Post-graduate work in Information Science. It was hoped that on his return the government would give him all the assistance he would need to carry on the work. The German Foundation for International Development through CRIT came to the aid of the country by giving a scholarship to another Ugandan to undertake some training in Documentation in India. A number of CRIT Programmes involved Institute of Public Administration

Library Personnel in the hope that the Government would give the centre the necessary backing to enable it develop along the lines it had been established to develop. But the Amin years were difficult years. Though the Centre's existence was not threatened, requests for its development were never heeded to.

It was not until 1980 that the Centre was given nine established posts. It was also given U.Sh. 0.5 m/- (US$ 50,000) half of which was a development budget.

1. 2. 4. Projects Undertaken

A number of projects were started and it was hoped that with the personnel and the budget the following projects could develop:

a. A Public Administration Bibliography
b. District Team and Planning Committee Minutes and Abstracts
c. Index to Uganda Times (A Uganda Daily Newspaper)
d. Directory of Industries in Uganda
e. A Directory of Information Service Centres and Information Service Officers.

It is the Centre's plan to begin WHO IS WHO in

a. Agriculture in Uganda
b. Medicine in Uganda
c. Education
d. Administration

2. Other Laws

2. 1. The Public Libraries Board as it is often called was created by an Act of Parliament in 1964. It was set up to establish, equip, maintain and manage Public Libraries.

The Board has nine members appointed by the Minister of Culture and Community Development. They serve for a period of three years.

The Public Libraries Board is involved in the following services:

a. Branch Libraries - eighteen so far gazetted towns
b. Mobile Libraries
c. Postal Libraries
d. Book-Box-Services

These services are spread all over the country.

The average collection of these branch libraries is 20,000 publications.

2. 2. Records Hierarchy

Realising that the information is generated as a result of correspondence by administrators; and recognising the importance of such information, it was decided that people working in government departments and parastatal organisations registries and libraries should be brought under one organisation so that they can be given proper training relating to information handling. Hence, a structure known as a Records Hierarchy was established based in the Office of the President. Records here included:

a. Government Ministry and Departmental Office file records (registries)

b. Ministry and Departmental Libraries

c. Registration of births and deaths

d. Motor vehicle registration and licence records

e. Land titles

f. Government Archives

g. High Court Records

h. Registration of companies records

i. All types of statistics manned by Ministries and Departments

j. Immigration records

k. Passport records

l. Firearm licence records

m. All kinds of Police and Prisons Criminal records.

The major problem with this heirarchy is that since libraries and archives are involved as well as registries, you have a situation where professionals i.e. librarians and archivists are lumped together with non-professionals i.e. clerical officers who work in registries, hence posing the very delicate problem of remuneration. The structure is still just on paper. No training arrangements have been made so as to effect the promotion of those who should be promoted. The officers working in registries, therefore, are becoming extremely uncomfortable because their colleagues in departments other than registries see clearly their promotional ladder. Those in the records hierarchy see chances of promotion as having been halted. One encouraging thing, however, is the fact that those in authority recognise the importance of information as a national resource which should be properly organised to effect development at a faster rate.

4. Advisory Committee on Documentation

This committee was set up in 1973 to advise the government on how an effective and efficient Documentation Centre can be developed. It was made up of Permanent Secretaries from over ten Ministries, the Librarian of Makerere University, the Director of Public Libraries Board, the Secretary of Uganda Library Association and a representative from the National Research Council and the East African Academy. In 1977 this Committee appointed a sub-committee to advise the government on the establishment and development of a Coordinated Information Service Structure along the lines of NATIS or the General Information Programme as it is now commonly known. A Cabinet Memorandum was submitted to the then Minister responsible but nothing happened until the war of liberation.

The subsequent governments after the war have been occupied with far too many problems of rehabilitation to effectively handle issues relating to information development.

One serious setback which all Ugandan Libraries have suffered from for almost ten years has been the inability to purchase new stock. Libraries were unable to buy new books nor pay for journal subscriptions. Given the financial situation of Uganda, updating the stock still remains a problem. An appeal to international organisations, resulted early in 1981, in contributions from the following:

a. Rotary club of Bentley in Melbourne, Australia, gave the Public Libraries Board a donation of 25,000 books.

b. United States Information Communication Agency gave some books to Uganda Technical College, Institute of Public Administration and the Law Development Centre.

Sudan

Information Services (Libraries, Documentation Centres and Archives

The Democratic Republic of the Sudan, the largest country in Africa, gained independence in 1956. Its population is estimated at about sixteen million. The socio-economic and educational indicators classify the Sudan among the least-developed countries of the world. Agriculture is the dominant sector of the Sudanese economy and the main occupation for more than 85% of the Sudanese people.

A large percentage of the people is estimated to be illiterate (about 80%).

Special Libraries and Documentation Centres

Special libraries were established to back up research efforts in the Sudan. Some of the first of these efforts are Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories, founded in 1903, Stack Medical Research Laboratories, established in 1927 and the Agricultural Research Corporation, founded in 1931.

Since the mid-nineteen sixties several experts, sponsored by different organisations, assisted in developing documentation services in the Country.

The first of these efforts was in 1966. The FAO, in response to a request from the government of the Sudan, sent three documentation experts on a six-month mission to prepare an index of all agricultural research work both published and unpublished. A set of the index which they compiled on edge-notched cards was deposited in the Agricultural Research Corporation Library, and another was included in the Shambat Library of the Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Science of the University of Khartoum.

Another mission was sponsored by UNIDO in 1972 to develop the Library of the Industrial Research and Consultancy Institute into an information and documentation department. It is planned that this department will offer its services to other Arab Countries in the area of industrial documentation and information for the food industries. This is part of a plan sponsored by the Industrial Development Centre for Arab States to establish specialised institutes for specific industries in each Arab country to serve the other countries on a regional basis.

Another mission was sponsored by UNESCO in 1972/73 and it established a documentation centre in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Also in 1979, at the request of the Government, a preparatory study followed by a field assignment was undertaken by the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT to set up and operate a Trade Information Service within the Ministry of Commerce and Supply.

The National Documentation Centre

The National Council for Research (NCR) was established in 1980 to encourage, coordinate, and promote scientific research. The Council has four specialised councils for medical, agricultural, scientific and technological, and social and economic research. NCR established The National Documentation Centre in late 1973.

The Centre attempts to meet the information needs of researchers. It also identifies, abstracts, and disseminates information about the national scientific and technical literature by issuing the journal Sudan Science Abstracts. The Centre is also the National focal point for INFOTERRA (International Network for Sources

of Environmental Information). It is also the national focal point for PADIS (Pan African Documentation and Information System), and UNISIST.

The Centre attempts also to promote cooperation and coordination of documentation and information services in the country.

University Libraries

The oldest academic library and largest library in the Sudan is that of the University of Khartoum, which was established in 1943 and which acts unofficially as a national library. It has four branch libraries: for the faculties of Medicine, Engineering, Law and Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. The Library is a depository for United Nations Publications.

Other academic libraries are those of Cairo University - Khartoum Branch, Omdurman Islamic University, University of Juba and University of Gezira. The 1973/74 STP Survey showed that while 36.2% of the research and development units owning or sharing libraries were in the higher education sector, they spent 84% of the total expenditure on libraries.

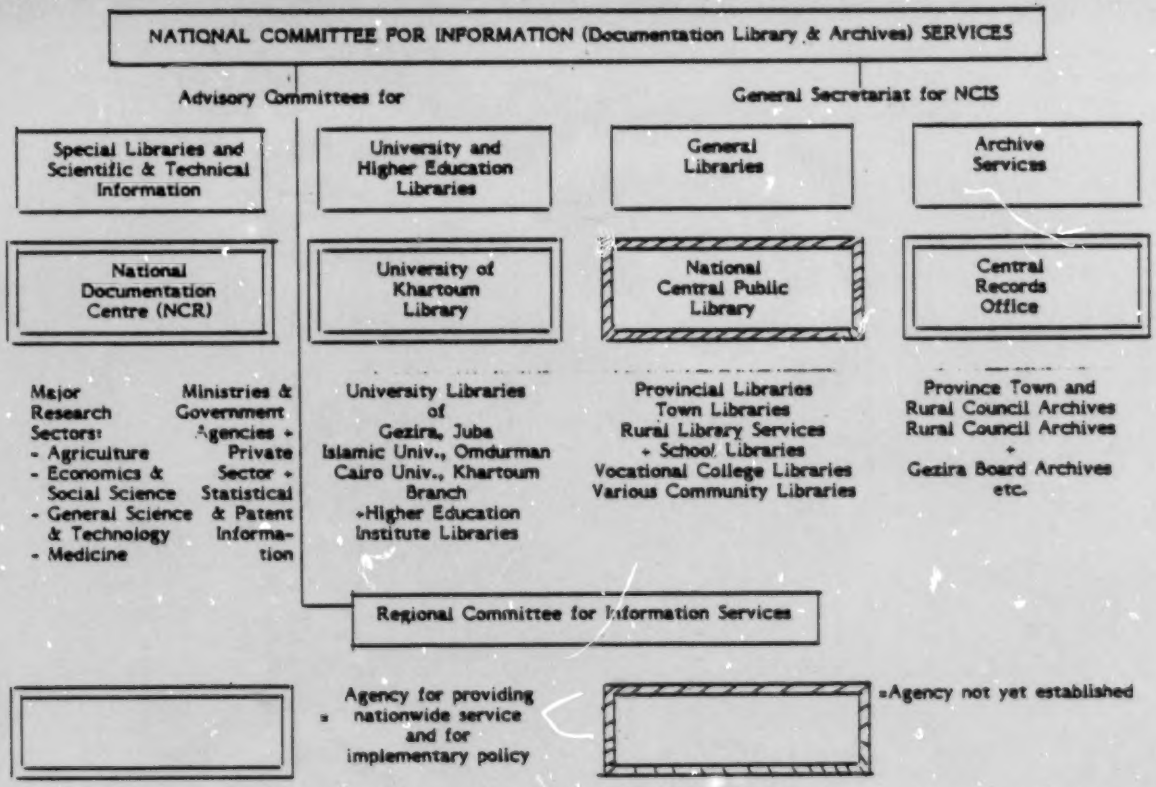
Public Libraries

Outside the research and higher education sectors, library provision is markedly under-developed. Public library provision consists of the Central Library in Omdurman, with a stock of around 10,000 volumes, and ten libraries in provincial towns that have book stocks of between 2,500 and 7,000 volumes. Annual book funds are irregular and inadequate.

The Department of Culture of the Ministry of Information and Culture plans to establish a central public library as well as branch libraries. The British Council has four libraries in different towns, and there are a number of foreign cultural centres in Khartoum.

School Libraries

A school library development section, created in 1974, is in charge of central services for school libraries as well as school library development. For the 141 high secondary schools there are only 23 library assistants, 12 of whom


NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION (Documentation Library & Archives) SERVICES
Advisory Committees for
General Secretariat for NCIS
Special Libraries and Scientific & Technical Information
University and Higher Education Libraries
General Libraries
Archive Services
National Documentation Centre (NCR)
University of Khartoum Library
National Central Public Library
Central Records Office
Major Research Sectors:
- Agriculture
- Economics & Social Science
- General Science & Technology
- Medicine
Ministries & Government Agencies + Private Sector + Statistical & Patent Information
University Libraries of Gezira, Juba Islamic Univ., Omdurman Cairo Univ., Khartoum Branch
+Higher Education Institute Libraries
Provincial Libraries
Town Libraries
Rural Library Services
+ School Libraries
Vocational College Libraries
Various Community Libraries
Province Town and Rural Council Archives
Rural Council Archives
+
Gezira Board Archives
etc.
Regional Committee for Information Services
= Agency for providing nationwide service and for implementary policy
=Agency not yet established

have received some kind of local training or have taken the primary course in Librarianship. The 1,300 general secondary schools and the 3,000 primary schools do not have libraries but only collections of books in the classrooms.

The Central Records

Was created in 1939. It's law which was issued in 1965 is presently being revised. According to the new proposed law for 1981, the Central Records would become the National Archives with a national council as a policy-making body for archives. The Council is to be headed by the Minister of Interior. UNESCO approved financing a regional project proposed by the Central Records for the training of archivists in the Arab region in the preservation and microfilming of documents.

National Committee for Information Services (Documentation, Libraries and Archives)

At the request of the National Documentation Centre, a UNESCO expert came to the Sudan on a four-month mission (November 1978 to February 1979) to advise on developing a national information system. On his recommendations, and as a result of a national conference held to discuss these recommendations, the Board of Directors of the National Council for Research passed the statutes of the National Committee for Information Services (Documentation, libraries and archives) which was established under the Act of the National Council for Research.

The Committee's main objective is to ensure the provision, on a phased basis, of a coordinated national information system which will meet the information needs of the Sudan and further the objectives of the National Development Plan.

The Committee has four advisory committees for (1) special libraries and scientific and technical information, (2) University and higher education libraries, (3) general libraries, (4) and archive services.

The Sudan Library Association

Several efforts were made in the 1960s to initiate the Sudan Library Association and to draft its constitution. The Association, still in its early stages of development, does not yet have the strength and vigour to influence the profession.

Bibliographic Work

There is no current national bibliography of the Sudan, nor any general trade list of Sudanese publications. However, The Classified Catalogue of the Sudan Collection in the University of Khartoum Lists, attempts to include all Sudanese publications deposited at the Sudan collection.

Many bibliographies have been compiled. These include bibliographies on the Sudan, as well as subject bibliographies on bio-medical research in the Sudan, anthropological and sociological studies, economic studies, agricultural economics, agriculture and veterinary research, engineering publications and reports, forestry and botany... etc.

The National Documentation Centre issued in 1977 the Union Catalogue of the Periodical Holdings in Sudanese Libraries, which supplements the List of Periodicals in the Main and Branch Libraries of University of Khatoum Library. This literature is covered by a number of Publications, the most important of which is Dissertation Abstracts, 1958 - 1973, issued by the Graduate College of the University of Khartoum.

Sudan Science Abstracts attempts to cover all scientific works currently written and reported by scientists working in Sudan, by Sudanese scientists working abroad, and by any scientist writing on subjects of direct relevance to Sudan.

Library Education

The first organised course in librarianship in the Sudan was a six week course given in 1960 by the UNESCO expert P.H. Sewell, who also conducted a ten-day seminar for senior librarians. At present, the University of Khartoum Extra-Mural Studies Department offers two courses: an elementary level course started in the academic year 1962/63, and an advanced course, started in 1969/70. Both courses are undergraduate courses held on two days a week, each for an academic eyar.

The University of Khartoum is presently studying the possibility of starting a post-graduate diploma course in librarianship, hopefully, in 1982.

In addition, an undergraduate, four-year course was started in 1967 at Omdurman Islamic University leading to a B.A. in librarianship and archives.

It is worth noting that one of the courses offered is devoted to Arabic and Islamic studies.

Conclusion

Observation indicates that library and information services are making progress in the Sudan. It is hoped that many new developemnts will take place that would enable libraries, documentation and information centres, to contribute to the building of the nation.

Tabulation of information given by each country
Eastern Africa

	Kenya	Uganda	Tanzania
Public Libraries	X	X	X
Archives	X	X	X
Academic Libraries	X	X	X
Special Libraries	X	X	X
Museums	X	X	X
Documentation Centres	Very few	Very few	Very few
Resource Sharing at Regional level	Limited to "old boy" contacts	Limited to "old boy" contacts	Limited to "old boy" contacts
Participation in International information systems	X	X	X
National Information Policy	None	None	None
National Documentation Centre	(Planned)	None	X
National Information System	None	None	None
Information or Library Training School	Training offered at Certificate Level	Training offered at Certificate & Diploma Level	Training offered at Certificate Level
National Bibliography	None	X	X

CHAPTER 2

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

The State Secretariat of Cooperation, an autonomous governmental body, functions as the national coordinator of SADIS in Angola, including the participation of interested governmental officials and information professionals from the Department of Africa, Asia and Latin America (State Secretariat of Cooperation which includes a national commission for SADCC coordination), the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Library of Angola, and the Department of Documentation and Information, University of Angola.

The major focal points of activity in terms of informationa and documentation appear to centre around the University and the National Library. The Department of Documentation and Information at the University is responsible for coordinating the different information, documentation and research centres that fall within the University which is under the Ministry of Education. The National Library and the National Department of Libraries, on the other hand, comes under the Ministry of Culture which embraces all public libraries (except for school libraries which fall under the Ministry of Education and the government libraries which fall under their respective Ministries and departments).

Overall, there exists at this time, no nationally defined information policy while the greatest need is seen to fall in the area of training skilled professionals in the information and documentation field.

Contact and cooperation with other SADCC countries has been limited. At this point, there appears to be little or no opportunities for training in Angola, therefore rising the need for reliance on other countries in Africa and abroad. In Africa, training has taken place in West Africa - Nigeria and Senegal. Other contacts exist with Brazil, Portland, and with several socialist countries in Europe.

The National Library had 30 000 volumes at independence in several fields. However, there is currently a backlog in such essential services as cataloguing,

classification, binding and shelving since a change of directors in 1981. The Department of National Libraries enforces the legal deposit and the new opening of public libraries throughout the country. Thirty three new libraries were opened in 1981, twelve in 1982. But they are plagued by a lack of trained staff, which also affects documentation units and libraries in the government ministries and departments. The National Library plans to disseminate a bulletin on librarianship to the provinces, and is planning a special curriculum for mix-level librarians covering these years (eight courses) which will be conducted at the Karl Marx Institute.

At the sectoral level of SADCC coordination in energy conservation, Angola's Ministry of Energy has established an SADCC Technical Unit which has already published one bulletin on energy activities, although a problem of funding could affect its continued publication. This activity reflects the importance that the Technical Unit attaches to information in fulfilling its coordinating role.

Botswana

The information services of Botswana are carried out by various institutions, among them being the National Library, the National Archives, the University College of Botswana library, the National Institute of Development Research and Documentation. Some private organisations have got hteir own small libraries and documentation centres. Of mention are some libraries which exist in various government Ministries, most notable being the Ministry of Agriculture's Information Centre. The information and documentation centres, libraries, etc., found in Botswana are not coordinated from a single point. Each institution takes care of its own information Services. However some informal cooperation in the field of information services do take place in Botswana. Botswana does not have an information policy, though very strong feelings were raised regarding an information policy during the user semianr held in Gaborone in September, 1980.

Major institutions engaged in information and Documentation activities in Botswana are:

a. The National Library Service
b. The National Archives
c. The University College of Botswana, Library
d. The National Institute of Development Research and Documentation - Documentation/Library Service

e. The Geological Survey - Library

f. The Botswana Technology Centre

a. The National Library Service

The Botswana National Library Service (BNLS) is a Department in the Ministry of Home Affairs and is organised in two main divisions. The Technical Services Division is responsible for acquisitions stock records and advice to Government departments libraries. It also maintains the National Reference library of Botswana material, much of it is obtained by legal deposit, and it produces the National Bibliography of Botswana. The External Services Division administers the eleven branch libraries, three library centres, Tutume community College Library and a mobile library. It operates a book-box service to rural primary schools and assists other institutions with libraries in the provision of books and advice.

The staff of the BNLS, most of which are Batswana, consists of eleven librarians, 32 library officers and assistants and twelve clerical and secretarial staff. Small branch libraries are run by library assistants, who receive on-the-job training, and where possible the larger branches are run by professional librarians. Some BNLS staff are seconded to secondary schools and the three Teacher Training College libraries.

At the start of the 1976-81 plan the last two libraries were completed at Serowe and Ramotswa. Since then the main development has been the construction of the external services building in Gaborone, intended only for the administration and servicing of the branch libraries but presently also housing the Technical Services Division. Membership of BNLS continues to grow and the book stock has increased to about 160,000 volumes. The provision of sufficient books, however remains a problem.

While the long-term plans of the BNLS include the construction of a National Library building, during this plan period, priority will continue to be given to providing library services in rural areas. A mobile library is operating and more branch libraries are being built. The BNLS in conjunction with other institutions hopes to investigate and see the possibilities of establishing a national information

system in order to prevent duplication of effort and to reduce the costs of information to government and the public.

Plans to expand the coverage of the library service by the opening of new branch libraries in rural areas will require additional staff of eleven library assistants and two librarians, though not all of these will be employed by 1985 since the last of the new libraries will not be completed until the end of the plan period. This department has been allocated a manpower growth rate of 7.3% per annum, and a recurrent finance growth rate of 9.4% per annum, which should also allow some improvement in the staffing and equipping of existing facilities. The existing in-service training will continue, in addition to the library training at the University of Botswana.

b. The National Archives

The Botswana National Archives, presently a division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, provides a central storage and retrieval system for Government records and acts as a public educational and research centre. The National Archives hold pre-1964 records from central and district administration. These records relate to Botswana of the former British High Commissioner to South Africa, and some more recent closed Government files. General reference works books on archives management and a Botswana collection are also kept.

The National Archives Act was passed in 1978 to regulate the storage, movement and preservation of all public and historical records. The Act provides for the appointment of a Director of Archives, who would be responsible for the successful implementation of the Act. The National Archives is improving its service of records management for Central Government and provides advice to local authorities and other institutions. National Archives building is complete, and this new building include stack rooms for semi-current records and permanent archives, a research room, reference library and offices. It will accomodate all material presently held by and expected to be transferred to the National Archives. The National Archives hopes to train more Batswana citizens in order to adequately staff the National Archives and enable it to fulfil its functions.

c. The National Institute of Development Research and Documentation (NIDRD) - Documentation Unit

The Documentation Unit of the National Institute of Development Research and Documentation (NIDRD) collects and analyses materials dealing with various aspects of developmental issues. The NIDRD specialised research library has approximately 5,000 titles on social, economic and cultural development relevant to Botswana, other parts of Southern Africa and Third World Nations. Documents at NIDRD include: research studies, government publications, conference proceedings, and NIDRD's own publications.

Publications

Results of research activities carried out under the aegis of NIDRD are made available through the Institute's publications:

- Access to publications on Botswana and Southern African countries can be made through NIDRD's library's comprehensive collection.
- The Institute also compiles a bibliographical reference system of scholarly publications and other materials and provides an information service.
- It cooperates with at least 200 agencies and institutions in the exchange of publications and of research activities.

NIDRD'S Special Services

1. Giving competent advice on the use of its Documentation/Library Unit.
2. Compiling bibliographies on request, and wherever possible supplementing it with material from the press cuttings
3. Provides working facilities in its library
4. Gives expertise on problems related to research on Botswana
5. Maintains a paper clipping file on current issues on Botswana and Southern African countries.

Recent developments at the NIDRD

The National Institue of Development Research and Documentation is in the process of developing a computerised national information and documentation system. This system, it is anticipated, will take over and build upon the existing limited documentation at the NIDRD and will concentrate initially on communal areas materials but will be expanded to cover all aspects of Botswana's socio-economic development and constitute the nation's central documentation and information service. Presently, this project has been approved by Botswana government and funds are being sought for its implementation. The National Institute of Development Research and Documentation has meanwhile been selected as the focal point of the proposed Southern African Documentation and Information System (SADIS).

d. The Botswana Technology Centre

This centre was recently set up to take care of science and technology matters. At the present moment, it is the major centre in Botswana providing a technical information service. It has a collection of 500 books, 42 journals and 200 copies of unpublished literature most of these related to science and technology.

e. The University of Botswana Library

The University Library was opened in 1971. Its holdings have now reached 60,000 volumes, including 700 periodical titles. The University College Library offers photocopying service and can obtain material not available in the library through Inter-Library Loans. The development of the library collection is geared towards the teaching and research activities of the University.

Students, staff, associate members and external borrowers are entitled to become members of the Library, and to use the facilities. In order to obtain readers' pockets, students, staff, associate members and external borrowers must sign a registration form by which they agree to abide by Library regulations.

1. The Geological Survey Library

The Geological Survey, located at Lobatse has a well-established documentation unit. It operates a computerised system for retrieval purposes. A well-managed microfilming and photocopying department is also well established.

Lesotho

Information and documentation in Lesotho is, so far, a haphazardly-shared responsibility of a number of institutions. These include the National Library, the NUL (National University of Lesotho Library), the National Archives, special libraries in some government ministries as well as private organisations. The nature, size and background history of these different institutions determine the varying levels of development in their information and documentation activities.

Lesotho National Library Service (LNLS)

The Lesotho National Library Service forms part of the Department of Sports and Culture whose other constituent parts are:

The National Archives
Sports and Museums

This library was established in 1976 with the assistance of the British Council which provided the building, books, furniture, equipment, vehicles and training. In addition, the British Council supplied the Director of the Library for a period of four years.

In July 1978 when the service opened for the public it had a new 730m² building which is serving as the Maseru public library and the headquarters for the entire secondary schools. The project also had 26,229 vols of books mostly from Britain; 20 local sub-professional and clerical staff employed as civil servants, as well as four professional expatriates.

Since a Library Legislation is usually the instrument which a country uses to ensure that its citizens are provided with information, the absence of such

legislation in Lesotho has been largely responsible for a number of problems. One such problem was that, when the British Council support came to an end, not enough provision had been made nationally to employ all the necessary staff to continue buying books and to maintain all the services that had been initiated.

Moreover, the absence of library development plan made the growth of the service unsystematic and uneconomical. Nevertheless, through government efforts and further assistance, it has been possible to:

1. scantily maintain the public library in Maseru

2. Open, in 1979, the Leribe and Mafeteng branch libraries, each accomodated in old and small borrowed buildings. In 1981 the Leribe building had its roofs blown off by storm and the branch is temporarily closed as funds for repairs are being solicited.

3. Operate a bookmobile service to ± 99 secondary schools which have library buildings of their own.

Staffing

The library does not yet have any established head because the post of Director disappeared with the departure of the British Council officer who was designated. Further, the post of Deputy Director has been vacant for nine months now. There are two posts of Librarian one of which is vacant for its holder is pursuing library studies abroad. In addition there are three expatriate volunteer Librarians who are on two-year contracts and one expatriate advisor to the Director.

The Library also has six posts of Assistant Librarians one of which is vacant, and finally there are twenty-two library assistants and labourers. Out of the seven officers who had applied for admission into the Library School in Botswana, two were admitted into the diploma course and one into the certificate.

On the whole, the present manpower situation is not only unsatisfactory in terms of quality, but is also worsened by the strict bureaucratic regulations governing recruitment, gradings, confirmations into posts, promotions and the slow pace at which the value of library services is being recognised.

Collection

The headquarters in Maseru have the reference section, adult's and children's collection which, since 1978 to date have hardly been properly revised, except through the withdrawal of popular, torn, dirty or mutilated materials.

About 2,900 volumes of books which have been in the workroom since 1978 are awaiting processing which is delayed by lack of adequate library equipment such as catalogue card duplicator. A humble Lesotho collection comprising rare and local materials is as yet inaccessible to users as it has not been well organised too. With the aid of a vehicle from DANIDA it is only now that school visits are being made to review the stock there.

Luckily, with a generous M20,000 (ca. US$ 22,000) which, for the first time was in 1981 made available, the service will enrich farily all the sections of the services with about 3,300 titles of books, as non-book materials will require a special planning before being provided.

Cooperation and Professional Activities

Though the National Library is a member of the Southern Africa Inter-Library loan system which is based in Pretoria, the Library is still making efforts to acquire adequate equipment so as to fully utilise the system.

The Lesotho Library Association, of which the NUL library and the LNLS are very active members will soon submit a final draft of the legal Deposit Law to the Ministry of Education. Obviously this law will enable the bibliographic services and the establishment of the national bibliography which is now long overdue; it will also facilitate research and ensure preservation of all printed materials in the country.

The Central Planning Office convened a meeting for the National Library, the NUL, the National Archives and the Ministry of Information (etc) to discuss the ECA Project paper on PADIS (Pan African Documentation and Information System). As already a felt-need, the exercise will hopefully introduce the establishment of a documentation centre, the national union catalogue and thus allow the formulation of a national information policy in Lesotho.

Future Plans

It shows that basic services to rural areas where around 90% of the population live have not been provided, but will obviously be unwise to extend even before getting a strong foundation at the headquarters.

Hence in the short-term planning, the library will need:

1. to restructure the National Information and Library Service which is likely to include library and archives and documentation.

2. extension to the existing building to house the bibliographic services, the presently crowded Lesotho Collection and the proposed Legal Deposit Office and story reading room for junior users.

3. Training of high, middle and lower level manpower, and acquiring financial assistance preferably for the Library Association, to run short courses and such activities.

4. a second user seminar like the one DSE (German Foundation for International Development) organised in August 1979; this seminar should be evaluated soon thereafter.

5. Acquiring the basic library equipment,

and in long term LNLS will require:

1. Proper establishment of branches in the districts and some growth centres,

2. Operation of mobile library to rural areas,

3. Non-book media centre,

4. Further library extension, and manpower training.

National University of Lesotho Library

The University is situated at Roma, 34 kilometres from Maseru, and it is on the site of the former Pius XII college.

The library has a stock of approximately 130,000 volumes (including bound volumes of journals), and currently subscribes to nearly 1,000 journals. Technical equipment includes photocopying machines, readers for microfilms, microcards and microfiche. The library also operates a postal loan service for extra-mural borrowers anywhere in Lesotho. Material not held in stock can usually be obtained for readers through the Inter-library Loan service. The NUL library is a member of the Inter-library Loan Scheme whose clearing house is the State Library in Pretoria, South Africa. Under this scheme, it contributes to the Union Catalogue of South African Libraries in return for a microfiche catalogue of monographs and a union list of periodicals which is issued in a publication - PISAL (Periodicals in South African Libraries).

Staff - Professional

There are six local professionals and five expatriates. There are two trainee librarians, one of whom has left for U.K. where he is doing a Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship. Most of the remaining staff number over twenty and these hold no basic library training. Some of these are being sent for training at diploma level e.g. at the University of Botswana.

Media Centre

The new extension of the library (CIDA funded) has provided for the Media Centre and Archives. However, the Media Centre remains idle because there is no equipment. The problem is finance - there are no funds for purchasing both the hardware and the software.

Archives

The new library extension has also provided space for the University Archives in the basement. There is now a qualified Archivist. He is an expatriate, and there is need for his local counterpart to go for training, when identified.

Joint University - Government Archives Project

The National Archives have been in existence for more than 16 years now. They have had persistent problems of lack of facilities for collecting materials; shortage of qualified staff, as well as inadequate and unsuitable housing. Presently there are only five members of staff namely - Senior Archivist, Assistant Archivist, Archives Assistant and Documentation Repairer.

The main point about the project is that the Archives have been transferred to the University for the following reasons:-

I. The Archives in Maseru are housed in an exceptionally unsuitable building, with inadequate staffing, high rate of pilferage and no suitable space for reading. The place is a "serious fire hazard",

II. Scholars, most of whom are at the University are the main users of the archives.

It is now fifteen years since plans for a new Archives Building in Maseru were initiated. The "new Archives Building in Maseru" is still in the planning stage.

The continuing deterioration, disappearance of archival material in the present storages in Maseru, and the potential loss of the entire holdings through fire hazards are felt most acutely by the University - the main user of the Archives.

It was only early 1981 when the Lesotho government agreed that government Archives should be temporarily housed in the University Library, until the proper Archives building is put up. "Ownership and complete control of the Archives will remain with the Government through the Archivist who will continue to be a Civil Servant". What remains now is for these archives to be physically moved to the University. Thus the University attempts to house Archives since 1976, only came to fruition in 1981.

As Archives are temporarily being transferred to NUL, the site for Archives preferably as close as possible to the National Library, is being explored.

Institute of Southern African Studies (ISAS)

This is an institute within the University and is more concerned with research.

In the Second Development Plan of the University (February 1981), it is suggested that there is an urgent need for a Documentation Centre servicing research needs in the areas of Lesotho and Southern African Studies.

Such a Centre would provide storage and retrieval facilities for items of "grey literature" (typically mimeographed or photocopied reports, papers and other unpublished items). The centre could also handle certain categories of material, and it is desirable to come to an understanding with the Library as to which would be the responsibility of the Library and which of the Documentation Centre.

At the meeting with the library it was agreed that the library and the documentation centre would not compete with each other but that they would complement each other. To this end, a representative of ISAS is on the Library Board and that of the library sits on the Board of ISAS.

Funding for the erection of the Centre is still to be sought from outside. They would also need scholarships for those going to train as documentalists. This is a good move on the part of ISAS, as a Documentation Centre is long overdue in Lesotho.

Malawi

National Archives of Malawi

From 1947 to December 31 1963, the Central African Archives, later the National Archives of Rhodesia and Nyasaland at Salisbury, had a Regional Archives at Zomba in Malawi, which became the National Archives of Malawi from January 1, 1964 after the dissolution of the Federation. In the absence of a national library at that time, the National Archives established a reference library section in 1958.

All items published in Malawi which had been deposited in the Archives at Salisbury and of which Zomba did not already have copies, were transferred to the National Archives, together with a large collection of vernacular publications dating back to the 1870s. The library enjoys legal deposit rights under the 1937 Printed Publications Act, by which it has acquired all publications issued in Malawi. It is the only legal deposit library in the country, holds the most comprehensive Malawiana collection, and is responsible for the publication of the Malawi National Bibliography from 1965. Over 30,000 items are held by the library.

Academic and School Libraries

The University of Malawi has the country's only academic library, with four constituent libraries at the Polytechnic, in Blantyre, Bunda College of Agriculture and Kamuzu College of Nursing in Lilongwe, Chancellor College in Zomba, where the main library is situated. Established in 1965, the library had some 152,000 volumes in 1974, growing to over 206,000 in 1980. Special collections in the main library include Malawiana in printed works or microfilmed documents. Though mainly for use by university staff and students, resources of the libraries are made available for reference to the public, and borrowing privileges are obtained on payment of a small deposit.

Libraries also exist in teacher training colleges, technical schools, and some primary schools. Bookstocks range from 2,000 to 10,000 consisting mainly of textbooks and general reading material.

National Library Service

A 1967 Act of Parliament established the National Library Service Board with powers to promote, establish, equip, manage, maintain, and develop libraries in Malawi. A library service was started in 1968 in Blantyre, and further developments include the establishment of headquarters in Lilongwe, regional libraries in Mzuzu and Blantyre, and branches in Limbe, Zomba and Lilongwe. In addition to these service points, there is a countrywide postal loans service, as well as library centres in various types of schools, units of land development projects, district community centres, rehabilitation centres, and Young Pioneer bases. This service helps supplement the meagre library resources that often exist in most institutions; 166 were being served in March 1981. The National Library Service has over 130,000 volumes. Registered borrowers number over 25,000 and many more use the Service through the Library centres. It issues over 250,000 books from its service points annually.

Small library units exist in district community centres and in church centres, and it is in these units that the National Library Service chiefly operates. In some cases books lent by the Service are the only reliable stock for the library.

Other Public Libraries

Other libraries open to the public are the British Council libraries in Blantyre and Lilongwe, American Cultural centre in Lilongwe, and the French Cultural Centre in Blantyre and Lilongwe. The British Council operates normal book lending and reference facilities from service points, along with an audio-visual materials loan service.

Special Libraries

A number of special libraries are found in government ministries, departments, research institutions, and statutory bodies. There is a wide variation in their size and state of organisation. The Central Library of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi Export Promotion Council Library, Bvumbe Agricultural Research station library and the Ministry of Justice Library are among the most notable.

Association

The Malawi Library Association, founded in June 1976, organises lectures and meetings and training courses for Library Assistants and publishes the MALA Bulletin. Librarians, archivists, and others working in information service participate in the activities of this Association.

National Information System

Following a report on the International Conference on the Development of Information Services in Eastern Africa, held in Arusha in April 1976, made by the Director of the National Library Service in May 1976, submitted to the Ministry of Education and passed on to the National Research Council, the Director was invited to attend the Council's 9th and 11th Meetings at which the concept of a National Information System (NATIS) for Malawi was discussed. Subsequently the Director, at the Council's request, prepared a paper outlining brief proposals on the estsblishment of NATIS.

Following this, a meeting of an interim National Information Committee was convened in July, 1978, at which representatives of the University, National Archives, National Research Council, Malawi Bureau of Standards and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, resolved that a National Information Committee becreated, and that all existing public libraries, libraries in Government and educational institutions be regarded as potential components of the system. Among matters requiring attention were the surveying of existing information resources in Malawi, surveying of information needs in Malawi, compiling a union list of serial holdings, and appropriate manpower training.

In connection with a project proposal for the establishment of a UNDP funded National Microfilming Bureau, it was required that a National Documentation Centre should be part of such a project. Two UNESCO consultants visited Malawi in November 1980 and issued reports inearly 1981. These were discussed at a Meeting of the Interim National Information Committee in July 1981.

It is hoped that the project proposals for the National Documentation Centre will be submitted in the near future.

Swaziland

Information and Documentation services include the Swaziland National Archives, the Swaziland National Museum, the Swaziland National Library Service, the University Libraries, the Research Unit, the Agricultural Research Station and Private societies. In Swaziland one of the major factors affecting the development of information services has been the failure of information agents and associated bodies to cooperate with one another. The only answer to this problem may be the formation of the National Information Policy on Information and Documentation.

The Swaziland National Archives

The aim of the National Archives is to provide for custody, care and control of Archives in the Kingdom of Swaziland. The importance of conserving Public Records cannot be over-emphasised. The Public records are of primary value to government in legal and administrative matters. The secondary value lies in their use to the historian and research workers. Through the proper use of the public records, Swaziland will benefit greatly in the understanding of its past, in its assessment of the present and its guidance of the future. This basic role of the National Archives should be recognised in all planning and development, economic as well as cultural and social activities.

The National Archives started in 1971 as a Record Centre based in Mbabane. It was started by foreign experts because there were no locals with rejevant qualifications. The first local person to qualify as an archivist was in 1976. When the modern and impressive Archives building was completed in 1977 all the expatriates had already left the country and the local was given the task of establishing the Archives in the new building. From the onset he had to work with two junior officers who had no formal training either in Archives administration or librarianship. At the same time he had to deal with day to day administration. The archives had no librarian, photographer, record manager and other administrative officers. It came out clearly that for more than a decade, the government did not appreciate the importance of Archives. It was only in 1980, that the government sent to Ghana for training a second archivist since 1976.

There is yet another trainee Archivist on his way to the School of Archives and library studies in Ghana. When these two trainees conclude their studies, hopefully before the end of 1983, the number of archivists would be three. The Record Management Section has no qualified staff. The Archives are still collecting government records that date back to 1800s most of which are still with the various government departments and their security is of great concern to the Archivist. The collection of private documents has not been started, the collection of oral history from the fast dying elders of the nation has not also been done. All these problems stem from the absence of qualified personnel and the lack of technical assistance.

There are however, some encouraging factors in the progress of the National Archives. A lot of documents have been secured and accordingly processed and inventorised. Researchers, mostly from Universities occasionally consult the records. A number of old photographs which have a bearing on the history of Swaziland have been collected and negatives produced. The Archives Library as the principal collector and preserver of the nation's literature has made some strides. It is concerned with materials published at home and abroad relating to Swaziland and in the general context of Southern Africa. It is widely used by researchers and interested persons.

The National Museum

This is a parastatal body. The Museum has recently been extended to provide more space for display of artifacts, implements and pictures. It is, however, very unfortunate that the majority of the people involved in the research for the museum are expatriates. It is, however, encouraging to note that the museum is gradually becoming exposed to tourists. There have also been a group of students who have visited the museum. No fees are charged for visiting either Archives or Museum in an effort to foster awareness of information to the young generation. No training has been undertaken for local curators.

The Swaziland National Research Unit

This is a recently founded Unit. It is based at the University College of Swaziland. It is hoped that such a unit shall duly provide the long and awaited opportunity for the collection of valuable information in this country. The University does its own training programme.

The Swaziland Royal Society for Research and Technology

This Society has its stronghold at the University College of Swaziland. It was founded in 1975. Since then it has displayed great leaps towards achieving its objectives. The society has successfully organised seminars and public lectures for informing the public on various aspects of developemnt and technology. The highlights of the society's achievements include a successful campaign by the society for building of science block at the U.C.S.

Swaziland National Library

1. Internal Administration

In the 1978/80 financial year a further 7,280 books were purchased for adding tothe General Stock. The Service now subscribes to 108 periodicals. The Swaziland Collection despite, problems caused by Swaziland publishers by their failure to comply with the copyright Act, now ranges at more than 400 items. The Library also has a UN Collection which consists mainly of material relevant to Swaziland and Southern Africa.

2. External Libraries

The National Library has branches in the districts, Nhlangano, Piggs Peak, Hlathikhulu and Siteki. There is also a Mobile Library that serves the schools in the countryside. The Central Prison also receives special service from the National Library.

3. Staffing and Training

Swaziland has no Librarian cadre at the moment. This creates problems in the recruitment and retaining of officers. The government has begun to take keen interests in the training of Librarians, presently in Botswana.

Cooperation

There is still no Association for Librarians. Librarians have begun consultation on the foundation of such an association.

Future Developments

The Library Headquarters which will provide service for Mbabane is under construction,

University Library

We have several branches of the University Library, which include:

a. Main campus library in Kwaluseni

b. Faculty of Agriculture Library in Luyengo (17 km from Kwaluseni)

c. Malkerns Agricultural Research Station Library

d. Big Bend Agricultural Research Station library

e. & d. are now under the Ministry of Agriculture. Do not have professional librarians.

University Library

Has an establishment of 8 professional Academic Staff and 16 non-ACADEMIC Staff. All these are deployed in all the campuses.

Library Stock

Kwaluseni	- 39,000 volumes
Luyengo	- 17,000 volumes
Periodical titles	- 800 (Kwaluseni and Luyengo)

Resource Sharing

There exists inter-library loan system within the country and with the Republic of South Africa, and other neighbouring countries.

The University library produces:

i. a monthly accessions list
ii. Swaziland National Bibliography
iii. Serials list for the University libraries

Future Plans

Plans are well advanced to acquire a computer in the near future. Consultation is therefore going on with other neighbouring countries, so that the following information can be obtained on:

a. Type and capabilities of computers held in the region

b. Standardisation in terms of software.

c. Possibilities of accessibility to other data bases within the region.

Zambia

A Brief History

The beginning of libraries in Zambia is rather difficult to establish but could go as far back as 1900. Around this time, the only sizeable library that existed was the Trank Library in Livingstone, which was more of an archives and also served the colonial administration who operated from this town as their capital city. The library was later renamed the Rhodes-Livingstone Memorial Library, and then National Museum Library after attainment of independence in 1964. Apart from this, local communities used to operate small libraries based on donations. These have since been changed to public libraries, giving free service to local communities.

After 1920, Zambia saw the coming of industrialisation with the establishment of copper mines and allied industries. These places set up small libraries for their own use. At the same time, school libraries came into being with the coming of education. These libraries have been developed over the years with new ones being created at colleges, industrial establishments and government departments.

Current State

Presently, the country has many types of library systems offering various services to interested readers. Some of these are the following:

1. Public Libraries:
These are run by city, town and township councils in all major towns throughout the country. Their service is basically free and open to any interested reader. However, only members may borrow books from them.

2. Academic Libraries:
These consist of the University of Zambia Library System and those of the colleges scattered all around the country. The services of these libraries are addressed to the scholars. For those outside these institutions, special arrangements are necessary to become users.

3. Zambia Library Service:
This caters for all secondary and primary school libraries in the country.

4. Research Libraries:
The major research libraries in the country are the Documentation and Scientific Information Centre (DSIC) of the National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR), the Mount Makulu Agricultural Research Library, the National Food and Nutrition Commission Library and those of Government Departments doing some form of research. In a sense, the National Assembly Library and parts of the University of Zambia Library system would fall in this category.

5. National Archives:
There is one National Archives in the country.

6. Other Libraries:
In many industrial concerns (both private and public) and commercial agencies, there has been a spring up of libraries to serve in-house members of staff. Perhaps the most notable amongst these are the library system for the two copper mining companies and bank libraries. The ruling party, the United National Independence Party, has also a library which collects documents and material falling within the party's activities.

Training and Staffing

The two institutions giving library training in the country are the University of Zambia (First Degree and Diploma levels) and, until recently the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe (Certificate level). By own arrangement, organisations do sponsor their staff for more advanced level training outside the country. In this respect, the country has greatly benefited from training courses and seminars organised and sponsored by bodies like the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), UNESCO and the British Council.

In 1976, DSE organised a user seminar in Zambia. This had been an eye opener to many top level officials who attended it. Perhaps time is now ripe for another user seminar. Some libraries were created as a result of this seminar e.g. National Agricultural Marketing Board library.

As regards staffing, there is still a shortage of well qualified librarians in the country. As a result many libraries are being run by clerical officers or volunteer staff in most of the Government and private and public industry libraries. Training, thus, still ranks high priority for librarians in Zambia.

Cooperation

At the moment, the country does not have an information policy to coordinate the development of the various library systems discussed above. The form of cooperation existing between libraries is, therefore, only the informal bilateral type; which normally does not extend beyond inter-library loaning. This is an aspect needing urgent consideration by all concerned to ensure orchestrated effort in the development of a National Information System.

Future Plans

Perhaps the single most important national level plan related to the development of the Libraries and Information Centres in the country is that of setting up the Zambia National Documentation and Scientific Information Centre (ZANDOSIC). In this line a first draft has already been submitted to the Secretary General of NCSR for consideration. Briefly, the plan envisages the physical expansion of the present facility and installation of a mini-computer (256 kbytes) and telex equipment. The centre will cooperate with PADIS in this project. In the second phase, the centre envisages the installation of high capacity computer and a tele-

communications network to allow full exploitation of regional and international information services. National Council for Scientific Research will soon be convening a meeting of all leading persons in information services in the country to discuss and formulate an information policy.

Another important development is the setting up of the Agricultural Literature Service by the Mount Makulu Agricultural Research Library. Concrete plans are underway and the project is expected to be of great interest to many people in the country who need agricultural information.

At the Documentation and Scientific Information Centre, a Union List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals in Zambia and the Zambia Science Abstracts 1975 have been published. The Zambia Science Abstracts 1976 and the Directory of Scientific Research, Technical and Industrial Organisations in Zambia are in manuscript form awaiting printing. The Zambia Science Abstracts 1977 and the Who's Who in Zambian Science and Technology are under preparation. These directories are being prepared as necessary tools towards the development of the nation's information system and service.

Southern Africa

	Botswana	Lesotho	Malawi	Swaziland
Public Libraries	X	X	X	X
Archives	X	X	X	X
Academic Libraries	X	X	X	X
Special Libraries	X	X	X	X
Museums	X	X	X	X
Documentation Centres	A few	None	None (Planned)	None
Resource Sharing at Regional level	In the Context of Union Catalogue	Context of Union Catalogue (S.A.)	Context of Union Catalogue (S.A.)	Context of Union Catalogue (S.A.)
Participation in International Information Systems	-	-	-	-
National Information Policy	None	None	(Planned)	None
National Documentation Centre	None	None	(Planned)	None
National Information System	Planned	None	Planned	None
Information or Library Training School	Training offered at Diploma level	None	None	None
National Bibliography	X	-	X	X

X - denotes presence

_ - denotes non-availability of information

Mauritius

Introduction

Mauritius and its sister island Rodrigues lie adrift in the Indian Ocean between India and Africa, remote from all centres of learning. The people present a colourful diversity of cultures and languages. Even the dry official statistics indicate this, stating that the population covers 236,867 general population (that is white and people of mixed African descent, the Creoles), 428,167 Hindus, 137,081 Moslems, 28,084 Chinese.

According to the Bi-Annual Digest of Statistics (1979) 49.8% of the population is composed of people of less than 21 years. The official language is English but Mauritius has remained largely French in language, customs and laws. Oriental languages have been introduced in the school syllabus and enjoy a certain amount of popularity among those of Asian descent. Creole, a french patois, is the lingua franca. Although it is not legitimased it is a unifying factor.

The Dutch named the island Mauritius after one of their leading countrymen, Prince Maurice van Nassau, when they took possession of the island in 1598. The French took it over in 1715 and named it Ile de France and finally it passed into British hands in 1810. The British gave it back its original name, and Mauritius became independent in 1968. The economy of Mauritius is based on a mono-culture, namely sugar, of which it produces some 650,000 tons annually.

Main Information Agencies

a. University of Mauritius Library participates in AGRIS and has been nominated to participate in CARIS

b. Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute (M.S.I.R.I.)
Participates in AGRIS. Cooperates a great deal with other sugar producing countries of the world. On the staff there is the only trained information scientists in Mauritius.

c. City Library of Port Louis
Dates back to 1851. Acts as National Centre for the British Library Lending Division, Bibliotheque National, Lenin State Library and others. Librarian often acts as consultant to organisations setting up information centres e.g. Mauritius Family Planning Association, Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

d. Mahatma Gandhi Institute Library and adjacent School of Oriental, African and Mauritian Studies Library.
Main part of stock in Oriental languages. Work being done to preserve and record oral traditions in Hindi and Bhojpuri mostly.

e. Mauritius Institute of Education Library and Audio Visual Centre
Mostly serves its own students and academic staff.

f. Mauritius Institute Library
Goes back to 1884. Attached to Museum. Mainly known for its Mauritian collection and functions mostly as a public library.

g. Mauritius National Archives
Enjoys legal deposit. Very well organised but inadequately housed.

Other Agencies

Four municipal libraries: Vacoas, Rosehill, Quatre Bornes, Curepipe. Also two District Council Libraries which are inadequate in terms of building, books and staff for the population they serve.

Government department libraries and school libraries are mostly inadequate and have small budgets.

Reports

Most recent has been that of K.C. Harrison sent as consultant by UNESCO in 1978 in order to advise on the setting-up of a national information system for the country. Report has not been implemented.

The main recommendation of this report are:

A. General

a. That a Mauritius National Library Service (MANLIS) be established under the Ministry of Education.

b. A National Council on Libraries, Documentation and Archives Services should be appointed to meet at regular stated intervals and to advise

the Ministry on policy concerned with the maintenance and development of those services.

c. MANLIS should be in the charge of a professionally qualified and experienced Director, whose duties and responsibilities would include the development and efficient management of the Service, acting as Secretary to the National Council, reporting to it, organising the best public relations for the Service, arranging suitable staff training courses, and such matters as may be referred by the National Council.

d. A Library Law, the first for Mauritius, should be enacted as soon as possible. This should be comprehensive, setting up MANLIS and the National Council, confirming and updating arrangements for the legal deposit of published materials, and enacting other clauses referring to the necessary staff, accomodation and contents of the libraries, documentation centres and archives services which will comprehend MANLIS.

e. The Mauritius Institute Library should be designated as the National Library of Mauritius.

f. The National Library should be given responsibility for national bibliographical services, including the production of a current national bibliography, and it should also act as the national and international centre for library cooperation and interlending.

g. It is realised that relations between the Government Archives and the National Library will require investigation. No recommendation is made, but it is suggested that this is one of the matters to which the National Council should give early consideration.

h. As a matter of urgency the existing NATIS Working Party should be broadened and strengthened.

i. The Library Cadre, proposed by the Management Services Unit in 1975, and already agreed by the Central Establishment, should be approved by the Government and implemented as soon as possible.

j. Consideration should be given to improving the salary grades of librarians working in all types of libraries. International parallels, both from developed countries such as USA and UK and from developing countries such as Jamaica, Kenya and Nigeria, should be studied in this respect.

k. The IDRC/University course for library assistants should be made permanent. Consideration should also be given to the eventual setting-up of a Library School of the Indian Ocean, offering courses for aspirant professional librarians and for library assistants, as well as short refresher courses on developments in the fields of library, documentation and Archives Studies.

l. MANLIS should give priority to better public relations for all types of libraries. The use of all possible media should be explored.

m. In order to encourage professional development, as well as Mauritian participation in international library affairs, the Government should give special grants to the Mauritius Library Association to cover its attendance and representation at meetings of the Commonwealth Library Association and of the International Federation of Library Associations.

n. Urgent consideration should be given to the problem of providing permanent, purpose-built and better-sited premises for the National Archives. Purpose-built implies use of the latest air-conditioning and dehumidification techniques needed for document conservation.

B. Public and School Libraries

a. Public libraries will form an important and essential part of MANLIS. The question of whether public library powers should be transferred from the existing authorities, i.e. the Municipal and the District Councils, directly to MANLIS, is a sensitive one, but it must be faced. It is by no means essential to the success of MANLIS that they should be so transferred. If the existing public library authorities agreed to bring their services up to agreed standards and if the Government, through MANLIS, were to give them annual grants to encourage them to do this, this is a possible solution.

b. Standards of provision both for public and school libraries should be set by MANLIS, based on the internationally agreed norms. It would be unreasonable to expect such standards to be achieved immediately, but target timetable should be set.

c. In accordance with the UNESCO Manifesto on Public Libraries, and with international practice generally, the use of public libraries in Mauritius should be free for both home reading and for reference and study.

d. It is vitally important to improve reading opportunities in the schools, since school children form the majority of the literate population. The service operated from the schools to be brought up to acceptable standards.

e. Plans for all proposed new school buildings should include adequate accomodation for school libraries.

f. The Mobile Library Service for village in district council areas, at present run by the Ministry of Information, should be taken over by MANLIS and greatly expanded.

g. Attention should be directed to the improvement of both public and school libraries on the island of Rodrigues.

h. MANLIS should give early consideration to the provision of patients' libraries in hospitals, also the possibility of providing, through the public libraries, delivery services of books and other information materials to the elderly, the handicapped and the housebound.

i. Apart from the Port Louis City Library, public library provision for children is either scanty or non-existent. Very urgent consideration should be given to improvements in this sector.

Manpower Situation

No statistics are available. Librarians generally go to England, Canada, France and India for training. Probably no more than twelve qualified librarians in all. Profession does not attrach right people as most jobs are underpaid and librarians do not enjoy a high status. The archives are greatly understaffed.

Training Programmes

The University of Mauritius, with the financial help of the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC) embarked on an experimental course in 1978 for the training of library assistants who were already working in libraries.

The main aim of the experiment was to evolve a course of approximately one year taking three afternoons weekly geared to local conditions and using available resources. The experiment was a success and the course, after minor alternations, will be repeated for the fourth time in 1981. Forty seven students have successfully completed the courses since they began.

It is obvious that with the present financial constraints and the high fees in institutions of tertiary education abroad, the Univeristy of Mauritius will have soon to set up its own diploma course for middle-level library managers.

Recent Developments

Since CRIT held its seminar on the Use of Documentation and Information for Planning and Decision-Making in 1978 there seems to be an effort to improve the services of information centres. For example the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry which celebrated its centenary this year has had its Information Centre organised. The Mauritius Family Planning Association, which is very active, has also set up an Information Centre. The Ministry of Economic Planning, which has just moved to a new building is also actively doing something to improve its Information Centre. The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation invited a French Expert to advise it on how to improve its library and documentation centre. The Ministry of Fisheries and Cooperatives are moving to a new building which includes a library. The Metereological Office too are reorganising their information centre.

National Conference on Information and Society

The University in its series of national conferences held a National Conference on Information and Society between 31st August and 8th September 1981. There was much talk about the "New International Information Order" and papers on the mass media, but particularly the press, were at the forefront.

One paper dealt exclusively with microforms which are relatively new in Mauritius. The use of computers in information retrieval was barely touched upon. However, the Assistant Director of the Department of Telecommunications did speak of the information explosion and the merging of information and technology. There was a session on Libraries/Documentation Centres. The four papers presented in this session were: The Role of the University of Mauritius Library by Olga Louise, University of Mauritius Library, (slides showing the work of AGRIS were shown ehre), Sharing Resources in Hard Times by Marie Benoit, School of Administration, University of Mauritius; Exploiting the Documentary Resources in a Medium-Sized Scientific Library by Rosemay Yip Hoi Yueh, Information Officer, Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute and The Child and the Mass Media by J.S. Augustin, Ministry of Education.

An interesting paper was a plea to librarians by two non-librarians on "The need for a National Centre for Scientific and Technical Information". The two authors, Baguant and Rughooputh are lecturers at the School of Industrial Technology. They made proposals for such a centre to be based at the University of Mauritius Library.

In his opening address the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius expressed the hope that there would be follow-up action to the Conference. At least Mauritius has shown that it is concerned about the information sector.

Need for External Assistance

The University hopes to launch a Diploma Course in Library Studies in the near future. In order to be able to do this it might need a grant for the purchasing of library books. It is also imperative that an information science element be included in the course. This can only be done if external help on the teaching side is procured as there is no one who is sufficiently qualified to do it in Mauritius.

Latest Developments - 1983

a. A computer has been acquired at the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Library (MSIRI), for its exchange list i.e. for the exchange of MSIRI publications with other institutions.

b. The Mauritius Family Planning Association has set up a library and so has the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

c. Mauritius Archives have been microfilmed.

d. The new wing of the University Library is now fully operational.

e. There are hopes on the part of the University of being donated a computer. this is part of a plan to establish an exchange of information among the Indian Ocean Islands (Comoros, Seychelles, Reunion, Madagascar, etc). The data base is planned to be at the "University of Aix-Marseilles, France.

f. School of Administration has acquired an Apple III Computer, but presently underutilised.

g. Bibliography of United Nations Publications on Mauritius has been started.

h. Plans are underway to establish a diploma course in library studies, during 1984/85.

Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands
(Continued)

	Sudan	Zambia	Mauritius
Public Libraries	X	X	X
Archives	X	X	X
Academic Libraries	X	X	X
Special Libraries	X	X	X
Museums	X	X	X
Documentation Centres	X	X	X
Resource Sharing at Regional Level	No information given	-	-
Participation in International Information Systems	X	X	X
National Information Policy	X	-	-
National Documentation Centre	X	-	-
National Information System	-	-	-
Information or Library Training School	Planned	Training offered at degree, Diploma and Certificate level	Training offered at Certificate
National Bibliography	X	-	-

Zimbabwe

Information and Documentation Services in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe there is not as yet a highly developed and well financed information and documentation service when compared with the developed countries. As a developing country Zimbabwe has a few information and documentation services which are described below.

University of Zimbabwe Library

The biggest well staffed and financed library in Zimbabwe is the University of Zimbabwe Library. This institution consists of the main library and four branch libraries which include the Medical Library, the Law Library, the Education Resources Collection and the Map Library. The total collection of the University Library system is 302,000 volumes. In addition the University Library receives 3,605 current periodicals of which 461 are government publications. The University Library's annual budget is well over $ 700,000 per annum.

It should be pointed out that the main function of the University Library is to support the research, teaching and learning activities of the University. But its information and bibliographic reference services also support research in the country as a whole. To support this, for example, the University Library was the first one to compile a comprehensive list of periodicals in Zimbabwe libraries. It is also the first to compile the Current Research Index. Both these functions have now moved to the Scientific Liaison Office which is in the Prime Minister's Office.

Up to February 1980, the University Library used to offer a current awareness service to a number of Government scientific and technical libraries but unfortunately this was discontinued because of staffing problems. It is hoped that the University Fathers will see it necessary to staff the library so that it can continue to offer this very vital information service to Government Departments which carry out research that is important for the development of the country.

The University Library is connected to external information and documentation services by means of a telex. The library also has an advanced reprographic service. It is able to photocopy, microfilm/fiche and make slides.

No information and documentation activities of the library are as yet computerised but some members of the University library are actively studying how the computer technology can be used in the library.

National Free Library of Zimbabwe

The National Free Library of Zimbabwe was established by an Act of Parliament to:

1. Promote the widespread of reading in Zimbabwe of books of a cultural, educational and scientific character by providing facilities for the free lending of such books and of reading, research and study and to maintain and develop services connected therewith.

2. Serve as the national centre for interlibrary loans and services.

The National Free Library is the second biggest library after the University. It has a book stock of over 70 000 documents. There is not a truly national library service in Zimbabwe as yet covering the whole country. The National Free Library is not supported by branch libraries in the urban and rural centres. It however, tries to off-set this major disadvantage by a postal system which can, theoretically, send books to all the remote corners of the country. In the year ended June 1980, 18,764 postal loans were made. It is hoped that, with the recent Alison report on Libraries and the President's speech opening Parliament, a national Library service has now become one of the Government's priorities. Whatever course the development of the national library service will take, the National Free Library is poised to make an important contribution. If the Greenfield and Alison reports are implemented by Government, the National Free Library will become the Matabeleland Regional Headquarters. In the fields of science and technology we find that the issues of material on these subjects has increased from about 34% in 1969 to about 40% of the total issues in 1978.

Government Library Service

The Government Library Service comprises all the Ministerial and Departmental Libraries throughout Government. It now has a total staff of over 120 including professional, sub-professional and non-professional staff. The joint annual allocation for purchase of books and periodicals is almost half a million dollars. Government libraries are found in all technical, professional and research departments and their main purpose is to support the research, technical and professional activities of their respective departments. Planners and decision-makers in Government make their plans and decisions which affect the nation as a whole. It is therefore imperative that whatever plans or decisions they make are based on objective facts and data.

There are over 90 departmental libraries within the Government Library Service. Rather than mention each and every library, mention can be made of a few of the more important libraries.

Central Library, Ministry of Agriculture

By virtue of the importance of the question of food supply in Zimbabwe and indeed in all other countries, the Central Library is viewed as one of the most important libraries. This library services all personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture. Because of the size and the specialisations within agriculture, there are also specialised Departmental Libraries like the Veterinary Library, Research and Specialist Services Information Services, Chemistry and Soil Science Research Institute, etc.

The Central Library provides a current awareness service to keep the officers in touch with developments in their fields. Current journals are circulated to officers whose interests they cover. An accessions list of recent acquisitions is also produced to keep patrons informed about new material acquired by the library. Material not available in the library stock is acquired through interlibrary loans and photocopies of journal articles can be acquired on behalf of library patrons.

The activities outlined above are also carried out by the majority of Government libraries.

One big shortcoming of the Central Library is that it is not yet a participant of AGRIS (Agricultural Information System). This has been mainly because of shortage of personnel. It is, however, already receiving some of the AGRIS publications. When Zimbabwe becomes a member of AGRIS it will input to the Central AGRIS data bank all information on agriculture and related subject fields originating from Zimbabwe and in return Zimbabwe will have access to agricultural information from other countries. The advantage of this information cannot be over-emphasised.

Private Sector Information and Documentation Services

Many major companies and statutory bodies have their own libraries and documentation centres. These include companies like Anglo-American Corporation, Lonrho, Delta, Air Zimbabwe, to mention just a few. A common unhappy feature, in most of these companies, is that none of them have as yet found it necessary to employ qualified librarians and/or information officers.

Information centres of major significance to the country as a whole include the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Zimbabwe and the Small Industries Advisory Service.

Small Industries Advisory Service

The Small Industries Advisory Service was set up to provide a technical information service to manufacturing industries through contacts with suitable information service both within and without Zimbabwe. It also acts as an agent for CSIR current awareness service for production engineers.

The Small Industries Advisory Service has information on all the industrial services available throughout the country and can advise prospective small industrialists about the best areas where to set up business as well as those businesses which are needed in these areas.

Associated Chambers of Commerce of Zimbabwe

The Associated Chambers of Commerce of Zimbabwe provide an excellent information service to its members through the following ways:

1. Every month it publishes the ACCOZ Trade and Information bulletin. In this bulletin it includes Gazette news which concern the commercial field and in addition disseminates information from the Ministry of Trade and Commerce concerning trade agreements, trade opportunities with other countries and official trade delegations.

   The ACCOZ Trade and Information Bulletin also disseminates information on trade opportunities. This includes information on services offered; agencies required; goods required from Zimbabwe and gooos offered to Zimbabwe. There is also information on Trade Fairs and Exhibitions; forthcoming seminars and courses and publications of interest to the commercial community. The ACCOZ bulletin is a very informative publication which is sent to all members free of charge. It provides a very useful communication medium for businessmen not only in Zimbabwe but to other countries.

2. Every day ACCOZ publishes its ACCOZ Commercial Exchange Daily Tender Bulletin which provides an excellent information source for businessmen on who wants what. All the major companies, Government, Municipalities etc., advertise their tenders through this publication. Members pay $ 30 per annum in order to receive the ACCOZ Commercial Exchange whereas non-members pay $ 60 per annum. ACCOZ also provides a useful photocopying and duplicating service. It publishes its annual Chambers of Commerce Directory which besides listing its members and addresses, groups them according to their field of operation. The Directory also provides useful information for a person wanting to set up business in Zimbabwe. There is a Trade and Reference Library at ACCOZ Offices. ACCOZ also publishes a monthly journal entitled Commerce. There is not, however, a qualified librarian in the ACCOZ Library. Mr Keith Nicholson, Chief Executive of ACCOZ is quoted in the Business Herald of 23 JUly 1981 as saying that "trade among the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries is damaged by lack of trade information".

Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries

The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) is a sister organisation to ACCOZ and as the name implies it is concerned with industrial concerns although companies providing a service to industry can join as associate members.

CZI disseminates up-to-date information to its members by means of monthly issues of its own magazine, the "Industrial review", and the CZI Daily, Weekly, Monthly Information-Trade enquiries-news-events. In addition CZI publishes the annual CZI register and Buyer's Guide.

1. The CZI Register and Buyer's Guide

   This is published annually. It first of all lists manufacturers and Associate Members of CZI and their addresses. It then lists those manufacturers who can use the Standards Certification mark of the Standards Association of Central Africa on certain of their products. The next section lists the products including services by Associate members of CZI. The following section gives the brand and trade names and the companies which hold these trade names. The next section provides us with names of the Chief Executives of the CZI members. The last section gives us general information which any businessman is interested in.

   The CZI Register and Buyer's Guide is a unique and very valuable publication. It however has its own shortfalls when it comes to the list of products and brand names. This is unfortunately not a comprehensive list of Zimbabwean products because it only lists products of CZI members. For a more comprehensive list of products of Zimbabwe the Ministry of Industry and Energy list of Products of Zimbabwean Industries is much better for that information.

2. The CZI Daily, Weekly, Monthly Information-Trade-Enquiries-New-Events gives up-to-date information to its members on current news items of interest to industrialists; visiting trade missions; conferences; seminars and symposia, trade enquiries, etc.

Like ACCOZ, CZI does not employ a qualified librarian/information scientist. In Zimbabwe there is lack of a comprehensive technical library to which Zimbabwean industrialists can turn to for technical information. The Technical colleges and the University Library do stock technical literature but the scope and depth of this literature depends on the courses taught by these institutions. Time is now ripe for ACCOZ and CZI to start thinking of sponsoring a proper business library for the needs of Zimbabwean businessmen. Such a library can widen the scope of possible business and manufacturing information available in Zimbabwe. The participation of Zimbabwe in the SADIS project will be to its own benefit. But as a first step to this participation Zimbabwe should have a well defined information policy and have its own National Information and Documentation Centre.

Central Statistics Office and Other Government Departments

The Central Statistics Office of the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development is the major Documentation Centre in Zimbabwe. It collects and disseminates socio-economic information of Zimbabwe. To a lesser extent each Ministry and Department also collects information relevant to its function but since UDI many Ministries and Departments stopped publishing annual reports and most of the data they collected was classified and therefore not accessible to many people. It is hoped that the independent Government of Zimbabwe will encourage its Ministries and Departments to make available to research workers, administrators and planners all the non-security information they need.

Conclusion

In Zimbabwe we do not have a clear distinction between a library and a documentation centre. Zimbabwe's documentation and information services are still in their infancy. Plans are under way to establish a National Information and Documentation Centre (NIDC), under the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Zimbabwe's Information Scene

Public Libraries	X
Archives	X
Academic Libraries	X
Special Libraries	X
Museums	X
Documentation Centres	Planned
Resource Sharing at Regional level	-
Participation in International Information Systems	-
National Information Policy	Planned
National Documentation Centre	Planned
National Information System	Planned
Information or Library Training School	Planned
National Bibliography	Information not available

X : denotes availability

- : denotes non-availability of information

CHAPTER 3

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PRESENT STATUS

When one examines the four tables carefully, a clear picture of the state of information and documentation services in Eastern and Southern Africa is shown. Information on the following aspects of Information and Documentation Services in Eastern and Southern Africa can be obtained:

1. Coordination of Information and Documentation services.

2. Resource sharing at regional level.

3. Establishment of National documentation centres

4. Participation in international information and documentation activities.

5. Information and Library training in Eastern and Southern Africa.

6. Bibliographic control.

1. Coordination of Information and Documentation Services in Eastern and Southern Africa

During the intergovernmental conference on the "planning of Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructure" in Paris, 23-27 September, 1974, it was stated that:

> The functions of all documentation, library and archives services should be coordinated through a central body (or bodies) to form the National Information System (NATIS), so as to ensure the optimum use of available resources and the maximum contribution to the cultural, social and economic development of each nation"[1]

As we can get from the information given on individual countries, there is hardly any coordination of information services at both national and regional levels. The lack of coordination in these countries may be attributed to the following factors:

a. Lack of government recognition of the importance of information services coordination.

b. Lack of proper facilities to facilitate coordination.

c. Lack of knowledge regarding the whole concept of NATIS.

d. Lack of funds and manpower to manage information systems.

e. Many information and library centres insist on their own autonomy.

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[1] Inter-governmental conference on the planning of National Documentation, Library and Archives Infrastructures, Paris, 23-27 September 1974. Final Report, UNESCO COM/MD/30, Paris, January 1975, 27 pp.

The lack of coordination of information services in these two regions hampers the participation of these regions in various international information Programmes. It is unthinkable for these two regions without information networks to participate in systems like: the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS), the International Nuclear Information System, the newly formed Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) etc.

Once services are coordinated at national level to form a national information system, such a system should be used to do the following in each country:

a. To answer directly the information requirements of research administration and other public sectors (i.e. in contrast to older views which considered information and documentation solely or primarily as a service instrument for research, which in turn, would or would not communicate its results to practical users in the administration, economy etc.

b. It should be demand-oriented, i.e. reflect the goals and priorities of the development policy of each country.

c. It should be geared in such a way as to make the widest use of International Information and Documentation, in order to avoid duplication and to make the knowledge of the outside world available to the countries of the Eastern and Southern African regions.

d. To recast and reorganise the scientific and technical information system so that the present scatter of documentation activities in these regions, the special libraries and any translation services should be integrated to form a number of large supra-regional technical information systems and to be systematically developed to become efficient units.

e. To improve the related infrastructure at a broad level and thus create the scientific, technical, organisational and staff bases for efficient national information networks, thus ensuring effective involvement in international projects, especially international information systems, in particular by:

i. Combining and developing infrastructural activities already undertaken in institutions supported by the governments of countries in these two regions.

ii. Strengthening Research and Development within the framework of a comprehensive programme for research and development of information and documentation.

iii. Establishing a complete educational system for professional training in the whole field of documentation, information science, Librarianship and archive studies.

2. Resour[illegible] Sharing at Regional Level

In the two mentioned regions, resource sharing at regional level is not practised. In Eastern Africa before the collapse of the East African community, sharing of information took place among the three countries. Presently each country is going it a[illegible] no sharing of resources is taking place except on "old boy" contacts. Southern Africa is also in the same predicament, and that presently there is no formalised policy of information resource sharing at regional level.

The development of international cooperation and the establishment of international and regional information systems are characteristic features of the present stage of the development of information services. In addition, there is a rapid increase in the number of specialised materials, the development of electronic data processing and of computer-based indexing and literature searching services, the introduction of Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) Systems etc. Efficient regional information systems will provide solid bases for international cooperation in Eastern and Southern Africa. Interdependence between national and international systems calls for extensive coordination of the technical and methodological sides of information systems planning.

Some aspects of the countries of these regions' cooperation internationally can be:

a. Cooperating with the specialised agencies of the United Nations and other international organisations.

b. Implementation of the technical assistance programmes of the international organisations.

c. Cooperation concerning the utilisation of the technical assistance offered by the developed countries.

d. Participation in the International UNISIST Programme, with the following benefits.

   i. The joint Research and Development experimental testing of new equipment, methods, etc.

   ii. Coordination of research, development and experimental work, elaboration of new designs for documentation and library activities in the countries concerned.

   iii. Coordination and/or joint training of information personnel, particularly the higher forms of training.

   iv. Joint subscription to the large indexing and abstracting services (in print and on tape).

   v. Joint acquisition and joint use of expensive information sources.

   vi. Additional translation services for languages other than English and French.

   vii. Coordination of use and methodology of computer systems.

Regional Cooperation
Latest Developments in Southern Africa

Events in Southern Africa over the first half of 1980, e.g. the independence of Zimbabwe under a ZANU-PF government, followed by the April 1 economic summit meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), have shown the possibilities of regional cooperation in Southern Africa. For regional cooperation to work in Southern africa, the countries in this region should have flexible foreign policy towards each other, meaningful technical functional cooperation and domestic policy adjustments in order to create the right climate and provide a sound foundation (substructure) for a regional network of information services and documentation.

Regional cooperation in the exchange of information in the field of transport and communications should be seen as crucial to the economic liberation and should therefore be given the greatest attention. In other sectors, similar programmes of concerted action should be envisaged. For trade development, many Southern African states have existing bilateral and multilateral trade and customs arrangements. But even within these constraints, it is believed there is room for substantial increases in trade among these countries. To this end existing payment systems and customs instruments should be studied in order to build up a regional trade system based on bilaterally negotiated annual trade targets and product list.

A majority of the people of Southern Africa are dependent on farming and animal husbandry. Their future livelihood is threatened by environmental degradation and in particular by desert encroachment as well as recurrent drought cycles. In actual fact, few of the states of this region are self-sufficient in staple foods. Both environmental protection and food security are major challenges both nationally and regionally. The International Centre for Research on Agriculture in the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRASAT), should be urged to set up a centre in one of the Southern African countries.

The development of the existing facilities in Botswana for production of foot and mouth disease vaccine to provide for the needs of all the majority-ruled countries in Southern Africa, should be encouraged. The spread of this disease is currently threating Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Mozambique. A coordinated approach to its control and elimination should be urgently instituted.

Concerted projects should also be undertaken in order to exploit natural resources, in particular those of common hydrological basins. Ways should be urgently identified in which the coordination of research and training as well as the exchange of information can take place, to strengthen programmes in this region, protect the environment and increase food production.

Formation of the Southern African Documentation and Information System (SADIS)

Introduction

One major objective of the SADCC countries is to reduce their dependency on the Republic of South Africa. This entails also their reduction on the use of information resources of South Africa. It therefore, follows that a new approach to the sharing of information resources among the SADCC countries should be investigated. Secondly, to fulfil their objectives and plans, the SADCC countries will need information in various fields, e.g. Agriculture, Animal research, food security, transport and communication, etc.

For some time now, there has been in existence a number of reasons militating for information resource sharing in Southern Africa, among them being:

a. Research duplication and overlap by different research organisations in the same field

b. Poor dissemination of research findings to users e.g. policy makers, businessmen, farmers, etc.

c. Lack of public awareness of research findings among the SADCC countries. It has now been recognised by many people in the region, that, a well organised information resource sharing system among the SADCC countries, will be able to identify the problems of knowledge or information generation among the SADCC countries. The concern here is seen as not merely one of eliminating duplication, overlap and low utilisation levels, but one of increasing the utility and relevance of a nationally expensive activity.

Formation of SADIS

Efforts have been made in Southern Africa to try to coordinate information services in the region. Conferences, seminars and workshops have been held in this region to find ways of harmonising information and documentation services. The formation of SADIS was proposed at a meeting held in Harare Zimbabwe in February 1982. After further consultation with the Pan African Documentation and Information System officials it was later on decided at another meeting in Harare in November 1982, to make SADIS a sectoral project of SADCC.

At the time of going to press, SADIS as a project was tabled at a SADCC council of Ministers' meeting in Dar es Salaam in May 1983 and the document was accepted in principle pending its consideration bythe SADCC heads of State meeting to be held in Mozambique during the latter part of 1983.

A feasibility team composed of UNESCO consultants, a member from the African Bibliographic Centre (ABC) in Washington, and a SADCC sponsored consultant have finished a SADIS feasibility study, and a report has already been published.

Functions of SADIS

SADIS is being proposed to carry out the following functions at regional level:

1. To satisfy the information needs of the users in Southern Africa, at individual, institutional, national and international levels, by providing accurate and updated information which is relevant for policy formulation, planning, monitoring and evaluation through the following series of activities.

   a. Cataloguing, indexing and abstracting.

   b. Current awareness and retrospective bibliographic searches on demand.

   c. Selective dissemination of information

d. Consolidation and repackaging of information

e. Document delivery

f. Facilitation of the user's access to primary document collection, both with direct supply of microcopies and with information concerning hard copy availability in and outside the UN family.

g. Provision of information-bearing magnetic tapes from other information systems e.g. PADIS, to interested countries of Southern Africa.

h. To offer advisory services to the SADCC countries on information and documentation problems.

i. SADIS is intended for providing advice to member states and preparing guidelines regarding suitable hardware and software configurations selected on the basis of compatibility, cost and other factors.

j. SADIS will establish a register of ongoing socio-economic research and development projects

k. SADIS will act as a clearing house for information on all forms of technical assistance to SADCC countries for the development of socio-economic, scientific and technological information systems and services.

l. SADIS will identify appropriate institutions in and outside Southern Africa whose formal training programmes in Library, documentation and information Sciences would provide the necessary professional and sub-professional personnel for staffing information services in Southern Africa. A continuously updated list of such institutions will be prepared for the guidance of Southern African countries' governments and donor agencies in the award of scholarships to technical personnel participating in SADIS at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

The formation of SADIS may not present a big problem as there is already machinery for disseminating information in Southern Africa. What needs to be done is the reinforcement of certain links and the organisation of overall coordination. The Southern African countries hope to base the structure of a regional network on the concept that a broad spectrum of scientific and technical information in this region can only be made available economically, if systems are built up on the foundation of already existing activities with due concern for varying user needs. The regional network must provide all the necessary information services in each subject field, for the whole of Southern Africa on a supra-regional basis. It is hoped that the efficiency of information transfer by SADIS may be increased by:

a. Bringing together the resources and staff into subject information units; those resources that up to now are scattered in uncoordinated information and documentation activities.

b. The far-reaching utilisation of international and foreign information systems.

c. The use of modern and technical process.

3. Establishment of National Documentation Centres

The information given by most of the countries in the two regions show that most of these countries have not established national documentation centres. In a few cases, information given shows that such centres are in the planning stage. However, in many of the countries of these two regions, individual centres, mainly research centres, e.g. the National Institute of Development Research and Documentation in Botswana, and the National Council for Science and Technology in Kenya, have established their own documentation centres and plans are underway to make them focal points of NATIS. With the awareness of the importance of documentation centres among the decision-makers in these two regions, we hope that many of such centres will be established to do the following:

a. to carry out literature surveys and periodic information on relevant documents, data and products.

b. to carry out information analysis, publication of, or cooperation in the production of reference works, progress reports, etc.

c. the presentation of information for the non-technical reader in a synoptic manner.

d. Reference data on association, authorities, as well as institutions of each subject field.

e. The documentation of research projects.

f. The supply of documents in so far as the need cannot be satisfied nationally, or the copies can be procured centrally, more quickly and at a lower cost.

g. To serve as depository for unpublished documents.

h. Supply of translations.

i. The regular monitoring of the needs for information of actual or potential users.

j. The acquisition, processing and content analysis of documents and data.

k. The creation of information banks, particularly in the form of centralised computer stores.

l. Training of documentalists in the use of specialised literature and user instruction.

m. Cooperation with foreign agencies in the field of information and documentation.

4. Participation in International Information and Documentation Activities

From the information given by most of the countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, it is clearly shown that most of these countries do not participate in international programmes of international information systems. The only major system into which most of the countries mentioned participate in its programmes is the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS). Sudan mentioned her participation in such systems as International Network for Sources of Environmental Information (INFOTERRA) and has a focal point for the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), but most other countries do not participate in such systems.

Cooperation with international organisations working on data and information services may significantly help develop the national information services of the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.

5. Information and Library Training in Eastern and Southern Africa

Lack of trained manpower to man the existing information and documentation centres in the two regions has been cited as a stumbling block in the development of information and documentation services in Eastern and Southern Africa. The type of professional training offered in these two regions is at diploma and certificate level in the field of library studies. No formal courses in information and documentation is offered in the schools which offer library studies programme. It is only in the University of Botswana where the diploma students in the Department of Library Studies are given an introductory course in Information Science and Documentation. Moreover, this course offered at the University of Botswana is on part-time basis.

Training Institutions

Uganda	Makerere University, Kampala. East African School of Librarianship (Training offered at Diploma level)
Kenya	Kenya Polytechnic, Nairobi (Training offered in Library and Archival Studies at certificate level)
Tanzania	Tanzania Library Services (Training offered at certificate level)
Sudan	1. University of Khartoum (Two year elementary course in library studies) 2. Omdurman Islamic University (At Bachelor's degree level)
Zambia	1. University of Zambia (Training at Diploma and Bachelor's level) 2. Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe (at certificate level)
Botswana	University of Botswana (Training offered at Diploma, and certificate level).
Zimbabwe	Planned school of Library Studies under Ministry of Education and Culture. Training to be offered at certificate level.

As may be seen in the information provided, the shortage of specialised local manpower and training facilities are particularly striking obstacles to the rapid development and effectiveness of information services in the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. This situation is greatly affected by the general absence of systematic plans for organised training of information personnel and the rather low status given by governments in these two regions to librarianship. Support by governments in these regions is needed in terms of strengthening national information and documentation capabilities from which they would all benefit.

At present, in some of the countries, information services remain understaffed and highly dependent on expatriate personnel. Further, local personnel tend to be trained through fellowships granted by external donors which is hardly sufficient to close the gap between supply and demand in the information field. In addition, such fellowships are, in general, granted for in-service training only, and seldom for training within the two regions. With few exceptions (Botswana, Uganda and Zambia), there are no training facilities, although some countries, e.g. Kenya, and Zimbabwe have plans to advance their national training capacities by creating local training centres. The availability of training programmes and curricula for enabling students to secure initial qualifications or to extend their knowledge in the field of information is limited. Where training exists, it is mainly traditional and oriented towards Librarianship at the expense of more modern information service skills, e.g. online retrieval, systems management, subject specialisation etc. The problems stated strongly suggest that the governments of the Eastern and Southern African countries, should examine as a matter of urgency the question of supply of professional information manpower. Nevertheless, it appears that while the shortage of qualified staff is unanimously recognised, lack of funds prevent the governments from giving the required assistance in this area. In addition, low salaries and poor status prevent the recruitment of enough qualified people. As a result, the possibilities of setting up local basic courses in Information Science vary from country to country with some countries with an edge over others. In view of such conditions, the regionalisation of training courses seems to be a sensible solution. For example we may have one school in Kenya for Eastern Africa, and one in Botswana or Zambia for the SADCC countries.

It appears therefore that the best solution to the problem of manpower training will be to put the limited available resources into strengthening existing regional facilities in Eastern Africa and the SADCC region, and to ensure that in formulating

curricula, due attention is paid to these two regions' needs and to technological changes. This approach will address the supply of local manpower. Regional schools of library and information studies are probably the best solution to the needs of the two regions. Despite the disadvantages of a regional versus a national school, there is not likely to be any real possibility of each country having its own school. Another danger of a national school might be the eventual oversupply of professionals within a decade.

6. Bibliographic Control in Eastern and Southern Africa

Most countries within the Eastern and Southern African regions have legal deposit laws requiring that government documents, and publications by each country's citizens, or about the country from a foreign source are deposited in a national library or archives or both. This policy is valuable and necessary, but is not easily enforced. Furthermore, the national bibliographies produced, if any, in some cointries are sketchy and do not give a clear picture of what exists. To make the situation more worse, many countries in these two regions do not produce national bibliographies at all. Lack of control of what literature is produced within each country and about each country renders the policy of bibliographic control in the two regions ineffective.

Many countries within these two regions have comparatively good information and documentation resources, but frequently lack hard currency to enable purchase of the necessary materials. Gifts and exchange of materials to some extent alleviates this problem.

CHAPTER 4

THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

International organisations, such as, UNESCO, the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the African Bibliographic Centre (ABC), and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), have been active in these two regions. Each of these has contributed in a different way to the development of Information and Documentation Services in these two regions. Readers should note that there are other organisations e.g. Friedrich Ebert Foundation and others who have also played a role in the development of Information Services, and that it was not possible to include all the organisations in this volume.

1. United Nations Educational and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

UNESCO has been the most active in these two regions. UNESCO has supported the development of Information and Documentation Services in the following ways:

a. It has helped fund research in information and documentation.

b. Helped fund seminars and workshops which deal with library and information problems.

c. It has provided scholarships and fellowships to individuals from the two regions to study library or information Science in schools outside the region.

d. It has helped fund schools of Library Science, e.g. the East African School of Librarianship at Makerere, Uganda, and the Library School at the Kenya Polytechnic, Nairobi.

e. UNESCO has funded feasibility studies, for establishment of either National Documentation centres e.g. the feasibility study on the establishment of a National Documentation Centre in Malawi, 13th November 1980 -

13 December 1980, and National Information and Documentation Systems, e.g. the 1974 feasibility study to establish a Kenya National Information and Documentation System, a feasibility study undertaken by a Mr. U. Gehrke.

f. UNESCO continues to encourage the improvement of libraries, Documentation Centres, Museums, Archives etc., for the betterment of people in these regions.

It must be emphasised here that the assistance provided by UNESCO, in these two regions has had some impact in some countries and none in some. For example, the assistance given to the setting up of the two mentioned schools has had tremendous impact, in the sense that these schools have continued to render useful services, at the time when UNESCO assistance is no longer forthcoming. Regarding feasibility studies undertaken by UNESCO in some countries e.g. Kenya, the impact has not been felt. Rather, other feasibility studies on the same problem have been carried out. It seems to me that UNESCO does not follow up with vigour their recommendations to particuair governments. Rather they provide the recommendations and forget about it, hoping that the governments concerned will take action.

The recent exercise with which UNESCO has been associated, and which seems successful, is the 1983 April feasibility study of a Southern African Documentation and Information System (SADIS). This proposed system has been approved by the SADCC Council of Ministers as a sectoral project of SADCC. UNESCO, has also in the past supported the development of Archives in Eastern and Southern Africa. This interest is manifested in the support both moral and material being given to the Eastern and Central African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ECARBICA).

2. German Foundation for International Development (DSE)

The Documentation Branch of the German Foundation for International Development (DSE) has been providing services in the field of information training since the early 1970s. The activities of the German Foundation were coordinated from a centre by the name "coordinating centre for Regional Information Training" (CRIT), which was operating under the aegis of the Kenya National Academy for the

Advancement of Arts and Sciences. The programmes of CRIT covered the following countries, namely Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia, Sudan, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The CRIT centre's programmes were planned by a "Regional Council for Information and Documentation", now called a "committee of Information Experts". The establishemnt of this Regional Council in 1973 at the initiative of CRIT. was a welcome development in the enhancement of information services and personnel training in these two regions. There had been a long-felt need for coordination of information programmes and services to avoid waste, duplication and scattering of efforts leading to much the same ends.

CRIT has supported a number of ad hoc activities, including seminars, workshops, conferences, courses and study tours. The German Foundation through the CRIT programme has provided scholarships fellowships for people from the two regions to study library science and Information Science and documentation within the regions and abroad.

This committee of Information Experts now stands as a mechanism to coordinate various Information and Documentation Projects, programmes, seminars, workshops, conferences, in-service training and refreshers courses, so as to facilitate the economic use of resources in the two regions. By themselves, meetings of experts are productive. They have a potential to be even more productive if there was a mechanism to ensure follow-up action leading to implementation of information plans and projects. A good deal of time, money and effort could be wasted in the absence of a scheme providing for critical examination of conference recommendations with a view of identifying those that are practicable and take the necessary action.

Achievements and Failures

The German Foundation for International Development, now operates the former CRIT Centre under the aegis of the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute, (ESAMI) in Arusha. This programme still covers the two regions as it formerly did while in Nairobi. One can attribute the following activities as being directly or indirectly the result of CRIT's programmes-

a. The user seminars mounted by the CRIT Centre have created a sense of awareness among many top decision-makers, of the importance of Information and Documentation in Planning and Decision-making.

b. The activities of CRIT centre have made some governments establish national documentation centres, e.g. Tanzania.

c. The training programmes of CRIT, have benefited many people in the region, especially those who have never had formal training. CRIT Centre has been organising courses for library assistants, some of whom have never had formal training in Librarianship or Information and documentation. For those with formal training in Librarianship, some of them have benefited from CRIT's organised study tours to various centres in Europe, to study the modern techniques of information handling.

The German Foundation through the CRIT Centre has awarded scholarships to individuals from the two regions to study Librarianship in Ghana, Makerere, and the University of Botswana. Scholarships have been awarded mainly to graduates to undertake postgraduate training in Information Science in India, mainly at the Indian National Scientific Documentation Centre (INSDOC), in New Delhi.

The German Foundation should also be congratulated for successfully operating the CRIT Centre regionally, without many problems. This centre managed and manages to bring information personnel from the two regions together to discuss problems of mutual interest. The activities of the German Foundation still operates very successfully under the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute in Arusha.

One must not fail to state some of the shortcomings of the DSE Information Training Programmes. One major shortcoming of the DSE-CRIT Programme is that it has failed to create an internal mechanism of ensuring that the recommendations drawn at various seminars, courses, conferences etc., are implemented. I would suggest that a standing committee be formed as part of the committee of information experts to undertake the task of activating ideas that are likely to be set aside by national governments mainly because the implications are not quite clear to the officials concerned. However well conceived and presented, projects submitted to governments desirous of improving information systems,

might not put into practice if there is no expert guidance. This could take the form of action papers, or blueprints, specifying personnel requirements, furniture and fittings, technical services, materials and regular financial provision. Resources permitting the standing committee could offer consultancy services if called upon to do so, and carry out evaluation exercises and possibly act as an inspectorate should the need arise, for the sake of uniform and balanced development of regional information services.

My second suggestion to DSE is to spread its training programmes over the two regions. By this I mean, all programmes should not be concentrated in Arusha. For example, courses, workshops, seminars etc., designed for low level calibre of trainees can be mounted in places with schools of librarianship so that resource persons and training facilities need not create problems. Only top level management information systems, courses which can take only a few top information managers should be organised at ESAMI. When all is said and done DSE's main concern should be to have its training programmes benefitting as many people as possible at a lower cost as possible. Otherwise one would be confident to say DSE has done and continues to do a very good job in these two regions in the development of information and documentation services.

3. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

The IDRC also plays an important role in the development of information and Documentation services in Africa. IDRC is committed to supporting national as well as regional information and documentation projects. IDRC views the development of regional information systems like SADIS within the context of what has already been developed in Africa in terms of PADIS. IDRC has supported an experimental course in 1978 for the training of library assistants who were already working in libraries, in Mauritius.

The biggest support by IDRC has been given to the development of the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS). The IDRC has also been approached to help in funding the recently established Southern African Documentation and Information System (SADIS), and a national information system for socio-economic development in Botswana, at the National Institute of Development Research and Documentation. In both the projects the IDRC has shown interest and it is hoped that the IDRC will extend some assistance.

4. The African Bibliographic Centre (ABC)

The ABC with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding, sponsored the SADEX journal which covered information on Southern Africa, between (1979-82). ABC is still willing to assist in the establishment of an indigenous information system, through the transfer of its information resources to facilitate a SADIS journal. ABC see their role as supportive and facilitative of the Southern African regional effort. In terms of SADIS development, ABC hopes to provide specialised training for the SADIS regional staff to facilitate the transfer and management of regional resources now held by ABC. ABC hopes, according to its executive director, to continue working with organisations like UNDP, UNESCO, IDRC, etc., in support of SADIS, so that this system will become an effective instrument for development and to assist in reducing the SADCC member states' dependency on South Africa.

5. Other International Organisations

Other organisations which have been assisting in the task of developing information and documentation services in the two regions include: the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the British Council, the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa/PADIS, have contributed in one way or another to the promotion and development of information and documentation services in these two regions. Some like the British Council have assisted in bringing to these regions some information experts to run courses. It has funded training programmes, seminars, conferences etc., and has provided scholarships and fellowships to enable people to train in Britain in the field of Librarianship and Information Science and Documentation.

Harmonising the Activities of International Organisations

In general terms the work that the mentioned international organisations have been carrying out in these two regions is very useful in terms of the development of information and documentation services. However one notes with concern the duplication of efforts on the part of these organisation. It seems that each one of them wants to 'assert' itself and forgets to consult with other organisations which are also interested in developing information and documentation services

in these two regions. It would be more appropriate if organisations interested in these two regions join hands and plan a joint strategy, put their resources together and determine priorities at national and regional levels. Such a concerted joint effort on the part of these organisations will eliminate wastage of scarce resources, and lead to concrete projects which may last. It becomes a real waste of money when e.g. UNESCO carried a feasibility study on a particular project in 1980, writes a report, and UNDP carried out a similar feasibility study in 1983, and without reference to the first one writes a different report. If the two could consult each other in such projects such a situation of duplication would not arise.

Another advantage of harmonising information development programmes on the part of international organisations, is to avoid suspicion on the part of the countries in the two regions. Many of the countries in these two regions can view with suspicion, if a number of organisations provide a different approach to helping them solve one particular information development problem. If all the organisations approach the recipient country as a group, the problem of suspicion may not arise. I therefore seriously request the international organisations concerned with helping the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa develop their information infrastructure to harmonise their activities and avoid duplication.

CHAPTER 5

FUTURE PROSPECTS AND LINES OF DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES

Future Prospects

Generally, in Eastern and Southern Africa there is a rapid growth in the volume of information. This rapid growth is straining the traditional way of handling information. It is rather difficult to make predictions regarding future developments which may be determined by factors which change all the time. As already mentioned, information in Eastern and Southern Africa is growing at a very rapid rate and this for example will call for better ways of handling such a big volume of information. If one looks into the future developments of information and documentation services in the two regions, one may see the following happening.

a. Development of computerisation in information and documentation work.

b. Development of regional networks of information and documentation centres.

c. Expansion in training facilities for information and documentation personnel.

d. Formulation of National information policies and the setting up of national documentation centres.

e. Intensive manpower training.

f. Future financing of information services being a major problem.

A. Development of Computerisation in Information and Documentation Work

In general there has been a recognition that the world, or at least the developed nations of the world may already be involved in an information revolution. A revolution in which there is unprecedented demands for it and unprecedented use of it matched by the rapid introduction of modern information-handling

techniques with which to manage it. The emerging recognition that information is a resource, fundamental to human activity, is highlighting the obligation to make it readily available to the whole community, to each individual rather than only to institutions or social groups. For the purposes of work or leisure pursuits, education or the normal activities of daily life, it is necessary to acquire or to have access to information. The difficulty of achieving these aims is reinforced by the increasing complexity of society itself. The identification and the provision of only the appropriate information or of all the available relevant information are becoming progressively more difficult, certainly more resource-consuming and frequently impossible. This will ensure that there will be great changes in the manner of presentation of information and in the methods and patterns of its distribution. Indeed, there is evidence already of significant change, for example, the developing computer/telecommunications networks.

Handling information on a large scale is primarily a problem of organisation of how to select from a large supply, the small amount of information that each scientist or team requires, given that these requirements may cross to the boundaries of disciplines and may extend beyond the language competence of the team and its supporting library. An urgent need for better means of handling the literature is to harness modern information technology, computers, and telecommunications, in order to select and reproduce items that are relevant, leaving users themselves to make any selection on the basis of quality. In the two regions in question, computer systems will be based on comprehensive national systems for abstracting and indexing. With the present growth of libraries and information centres, computers will be used operationally in order to improve library operations especially those associated with catalogue records and loan records.

In many of the countries in the two regions, until recently, the major computing facilities for information retrieval were being held for economic reasons, and use is being made of the batch processing.

Summary

As a summary, one may say that computerised information and documentation services in Eastern and Southern Africa, have a future within these two regions for the following reasons:

i. The rapid growth of information

The rapid growth of information will require computers to process this as quickly as possible to satisfy the needs of the users. Computers are also known to store large amounts of informaiton and this is helpful in problems of storage space.

ii. The growing number of Research and Development Institutions

The growing number of Research and Development (R&D) institutions in the two regions calls for new ways of handling information. Research information needed by such institutions will have to be obtained from outside the region, and this will entail the use of computers for accessing data bases abroad and for operating services like Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) in such inetitutions.

iii. Political and Economic Factors

The Southern African countries have grouped themselves into the political body the "Southern African Development Coordination Conference" (SADCC), for political and economic considerations. Botswana presently hosts the secretariat of SADCC. This Secretariat will be collecting, processing and disseminating information to users within Botswana and other SADCC member states. A faster system of disseminating information will be needed, hence computerised information systems.

iv. New developments in the field of information in Africa

Africa has been lagging behind in the development of information systems, to process, store and disseminate such information for development purposes. In early 1981, a computerised information system by the name Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), was established by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), to serve the African countries. To benefit from this computerised system the countries within the two regions will have to computerise their information services in the near future.

Many people in the two regions still believe that computerised information services are not necessary for the two regions at the moment. Of course this may be true as it stands today. But things are changing so fast that nobody would like these two regions lagging behind in the field

of information technology. The two regions produce very little information in the field of science and technology. In the next few years, however, the application of on-line systems will increasingly be explored. In such systems the user will have direct access to the computer by means of a local terminal (keyword, with or without visual display unit), and interrogate the computer store and obtain an immediate response.

Because he can also interact ("converse") with the computer while his inquiry is being processed, he can amend his request as a result of the dialogue he has with the system.

Future of on-line systems in Eastern and Southern Africa

On-line systems have many advantages over batch-processing systems; notably the speed with which they can supply answers to enquiries and the ease with which they can help a user to define his requirements, precisely. These correspond much more closely to the techniques traditionally employed by users in manual searching and so have a psychological advantage. However, these may encounter two major problems.

i. On-line facilities are more expensive than batch-processing systems in terms of both equipment and running costs. A user organisation has to acquire a terminal, pay for a connection to the computer, and on most occasions, use the computer for much longer time periods. Thus both suppliers and users have to balance the greater cost of these on-line facilities with the value of greater speed and efficiency. However, with the falling cost of computers, computers will become a minor component of information retrieval in Botswana.

ii. There is also a problem that computerised information systems have to be approached in a formulized structured manner. The on-line user has to know the language of the system and the methods of interrogating the data base. In some systems this task is facilitated by issuing a manual for users, in others by building in a "dialogue" programme which helps the user to formulate his questions correctly. No one disputes the inherent advantages of computers and the fact that they have an important part to play in controlling the rising tide of information.

With the increasing inter-dependence among countries on information, on-line information systems may play a major role in the two regions in terms of accessing data bases in other countries e.g. the Agricultural Sciences Information System in Rome; secondly, with an increase in the number of Research and Development institutions, information from other countries will become necessary. Latest information in this field is stored in data bases in the developed countries. To acquire such information the countries within these two regions will have to access these data bases by the help of a computer. Secondly, the software which may be obtained can only be managed by computers. This, then, shows clearly that the countries within these two regions will have to start computerising their information and documentation services in the near future, before they are caught up in problems of acquiring, processing, storing and disseminating of development related information.

B. Development of Regional and National Systems

The development of regional cooperation and the establishment of national information and documentation systems are characteristic features of the present stage of development of information and documentation services. In addition, there is a rapid increase in the number of specialised materials, the development of electronic data processing and of computer-based indexing and literature-searching services, the introduction of "Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI) Systems etc. Efficient national information systems may provide solid bases for regional cooperation in Eastern and Southern Africa. Interdependence between national and regional systems calls for extensive coordination of the technical and methodological sides of information systems planning.

i. Eastern Africa

The break-up of the East African community, to a large extent affected formal cooperation in various fields among the countries of East Africa. Before the break-up of the community, there existed a highly successful information service, by name the East African Literature Service (EALS). The EALS began operation in February 1967 with 63 participating research stations and educational institutions. As of June 1971, the Service was used by 67 organisations in Kenya, 29 in Uganda, 56 in Tanzania, 9 in Malawi, 8 in Zambia, 3 in Botswana, 3 in Ethiopia, 1 each in Burundi,

Cameroon and Nigeria. With the break-up of the East African community this service was interrupted and though cooperation in the exchange of information still exists, this cooperation is not formalised. With the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), operating, and with its intention of creating regional centres, one would be optimistic to say that this may be formally created as a sub-system of PADIS.

ii. Southern Africa

Events in Southern Africa over the first half of 1980, e.g. the independence of Zimbabwe under a ZANU-PF government, followed by the April I economic summit meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), have shown the possibilities of regional cooperation in Southern Africa. For regional cooperation to work in Southern Africa, the countries in this region should have flexible foreign policy towards each other, meaningful technical-functional cooperation and domestic policy adjustments in order to create the right climate and provide a sound foundation (substructure) for a regional network of information services and documentation.

Regional cooperation in the exchange of information in the field of transport and communications should be seen as crucial to the economic liberation and should therefore be given the greatest attention. In other sectors, similar programmes of concerted action should be envisaged. For trade development, many Southern African states have existing bilateral and multilateral trade and customs arrangements. But even within these constraints, it is believed there is room for substantial increases in trade among these countries. To this end existing payment systems and customs instruments should be studied in order to build up a regional trade system based on bilaterally negotiated annual trade targets and product list.

A majority of the people of Southern Africa are dependent on farming and animal husbandry. Their future livelihood is threatened by environmental degradation and in particular by desert encroachment as well as recurrent drought cycles. In actual fact, few of the states of this region are self-sufficient in staple foods. Both environmental protection and food security are major challenges both nationally and regionally. The International Centre for Research on Agriculture in the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRASAT), should be urged to set up a centre in one of the Southern African countries.

The development of the existing facilities in Botswana for production of foot and mouth disease vaccine to provide for the needs of all the majority-ruled countries in Southern Africa, should be encouraged. The spread of this disease is currently threatening Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Mozambique. A coordinated approach to its control and elimination should be urgently instituted. Concerted projects, may also be undertaken in order to exploit natural resources, in particular those of common hydrological basins. Ways should be urgently identified in which the coordination of research and training as well as the exchange of information, to strengthen programmes in this region, e.g. protection of the environment and increasing food production.

Good signs for regional cooperation are beginning to show in Southern Africa, by the formation of the Southern African Documentation and Information System (SADIS). SADIS is being formed as a sectoral project of SADCC, to facilitate information resource sharing among the SADCC member states.

C. Interest in Development of Information and Documentation Services

As already discussed in this book, one of the stumbling blocks of the development of information and documentation services in these two regions is the lack of government interest and commitment. Many governments in these two regions are however being made aware of the importance of information and documentation services, by international organisations, e.g. UNESCO. With the awareness coming up among the government officials concerned, there is some hope of having governments taking a keen interest in information and documentation services development in these two regions.

D. Establishment of Documentation Centres, and Formulation of Information Policies

As already stated, literature production in these two regions is growing at a tremendous rate, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to process this mass of literature, and to make it readily available to users. Information as such has no value until it is used. In these two regions we have scientific institutions

being expanded, importation and generation of technology being carried out, industries growing etc. All workers in these institutions require properly processed and up to date informaiton. This makes it necessary for most of these countries in the two regions to establish documentation centres. Documentation centres which may be set up will be expected to carry out the following activities:

a. Literature surveys and periodic information on relevant documents, data and products.

b. Information analysis, publication of, or cooperation in the production of reference works, progress reports etc.

c. The presentation of information to a non-technical reader in a synoptic manner.

d. Reference data on association, authorities, as well as institutions of each subject field.

e. The documentation of research projects.

f. The supply of documents in so far as the need cannot be satisfied nationally or the copies can be procured centrally, more quickly and at a lower cost.

g. Depository for unpublished documents.

h. Supply of translations

i. Cooperation with foreign countries.

These information and documentation centres which may come up in future, will also be expected to take responsibility for the following preparatory and other tasks, if they are to provide the stated services.

1. The regular monitoring of the needs for information of actual or potential users.

2. The acquisiton, processing and content analysis of documents and data.

3. The creation of information banks, particularly in the form of centralised computer stores.

4. Research and Development of Information and Documentation techniques in specific subjects.

5. Training of documentalists in the use of specialised literature and user instruction.

D. ii. Formulation of Information Policies

To plan and implement national information and documentation centres, and information systems in future, consideration should be taken of the following:

Information policies for the countries within the two regions, which should cover the following aspects:

a. They should reflect the needs of all sectors of each country's community as a whole. These information policies should be formulated to guide the establishment of national information plans, where elements should fully be incorporated in the national development plans.

b. To stimulate user awareness. In order to increase user awareness, appropriate bodies including universities and other educational institutions should include in their programmes, systematic instruction in the use of information resources available in all the elements.

c. To allocate responsibilities to organisations for building up strong collections in special subject fields.

d. Ensuring that there is in the country at least one accessible copy of every worthwhile scientific publication for use by the Scientists.

e. Development of facilities for providing information service to industry.

f. Establishment of a data bank for scientific and techno-economic information.

g. Organisation of national facilities for supply of reprographic copies of documents on request.

h. Establishment and development of subject-oriented national information grids.

i. Establishment of national referral centre(s) to direct users to existing information sources.

j. Preparation of national Union Catalogues of holding of libraries.

k. To establish regional dormitories for storing older material weeded out by service librarians.

l. Promoting the use of microfilms and microfiche of documents.

m. Creation of information consciousness among users.

n. To undertake periodical surveys for assessing information needs and users in the country.

o. Collaboration with national and international organisations engaged in information and documentation services.

p. Building translation facilities in various languages.

q. Building up adequate computer and reprographic facilities in information handling and information centres.

r. Building up of expertise and providing for training in information field for an adequate number of persons in documentation, information science, communication, computer science, reprography and translation.

s. Ensuring that the service conditions of the information personnel are at par with those of scientific personnel.

t. Supporting projects in documentation, information science, communication, computer science, reprography and translation.

u. Sponsoring conferences, symposia, seminars, workshops etc., in documentation, information science, computer science, reprography and translation.

E. Intensive Manpower Training

The future will see intensive manpower training being undertaken by countries within the two regions. As we have already seen, many countries in these two regions do not have enough manpower to manage the developing information and documentation services. Plans, therefore, for manpower training will be made before embarking on the establishment of national and regional information systems. Effective operation of the various components of national and regional information systems will require that specialists of many kinds should be available, i.e. subject specialists, information professionals, systems designers etc. Once policy has been set, operations should be carried out by those specialists who are most effective for the tasks to be performed. However, all tasks that require judgement on the value of information in a given field must be made by someone of adequate education and training. This principle cannot be stressed too strongly.

Plans for building up the requisite personnel should form a permanent element of all systems design in the two regions. Such plans should include:

a. Medium term plans (for specified periods, e.g. 6 years), with provision for annual growth.

b. The qualifications required of the personnel e.g. graduates, undergraduates, etc.

c. Summary of the foreseeable demand for training personnel for specialised centres in Agriculture, Industry, Medicine, etc.

F. Future Financing of Information Services in Eastern and Southern Africa; a major problem

Financing of the proposed future developments of information and documentation services is a critical factor. Finance is a very important component to be considered by countries in these two regions, when planning for national and regional information services and systems. Development of information and documentation services, means long-term cost intensive investments which yield results "information" only after a comparatively long starting period. Models of national and regional information systems for the countries of the two regions, will depend on the financial situations of each country, their priorities of their governments, the number of available trained personnel and the attitude of those responsible for decision-making. However some of the most important components to be considered when planning for information and documentation services have been mentioned and will also be mentioned here.

One of the decisive factors is the limited financial resources of many of the countries in these two regions, and the consequent emphasis on economy in the establishment of their systems of information and documentation services. The need for technical assistance from international organisations and the industrialised countries needs to be emphasised. This assistance can successfully bring information services of the countries in those two regions to life and may also help in the designing of actual information and documentation systems and the acquisition of expensive equipment. The actual operation of the national and regional information systems should, however, be solely in the hands of the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa themselves, and should be covered by their own financial means.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, the provision of information relating to development should be considered of sufficient public value for the service to be given free of charge, the full cost being borne by the respective governments. There are good arguments against free information services. Usually information received free of charge is not criticised but accepted, even if it proves valueless and inaccurate. Nevertheless, in Eastern and Southern Africa, where there may be few users for particular services, the running costs may be so high that many users refuse to pay the price so forego the information: Government aid, in this case should therefore become inevitable.

The cost of establishing and operating information centres in these two regions can be defrayed from the following sources:

a. Subsidies from individual governments.

b. Assistance from international organisations

c. Assistance from Foundations and other private organisations in or outside the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.

d. Payment from the users.

e. Payments and donations from groups or projects having high demand for data (e.g. industrial community).

f. Bilateral assistance from governments.

Any of the above options can be combined in order to cope with the financial burden. Along with the Government support, Foundations and private organisations seriously concerned with the encouragement of science and the utilisation of the results could give some appropriate support, so could academic, research institutions and learned societies. Without subsidy, evaluated data services may have to be marketed at much higher prices than document or bibliographic information services. Yet it may be impossible for University research workers to use these high priced services. Just as nobody expects the price of scientific journals to cover the cost of the research from which papers have resulted, it can be argued that prices for data dissemination services need not cover the cost of acquiring and evaluating data, of input files, the initial investment cost for computer etc.

CHAPTER 6

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The major goal of most governments in the two regions, is the satisfaction fo the fundamental basic needs and the alleviation of poverty of all the people in these two regions. I see information and Documentation services, being developed in these two regions with the above worthy goal in the minds of the decision-makers. The information expected to emanate from the information centres that are being created in these two regions, should be that information that will motivate and mobilise all the countries to control their own development, geared towards increasing their productivity, rather than turning the economies of these countries into industrial robots. For example, these countries should not only use technical information to increase agricultural production but should also use it for organisational and educational purposes.

National and regional information and Documentation Centres and systems in the two regions should in future serve the purpose of initiating and supporting development of scientific and technical information services so as to keep pace with increasing knowledge and the growing needs for information of contemporary society. These should seek to ensure better access to all types of information from the various subject fields and missions, so that existing knowledge and information can be mobilised to meet the scientific, economic, technical, political and social problems of our time and thus avoid wasteful duplication and poor investment. These aims should be achieved through a broad spectrum of information activities each specifically focussed. Thus information and documentation services in the two regions should have the following purposes:

1. Increasing the efficiency of research, development and training, thus speeding up innovation as one of the basic prerequisites for an enhanced quality of life.

2. Improving the efficiency and competitiveness of industry and technology, particularly of medium-sized and small concerns; assisting professional and manual workers, thus contributing to the improvement of working conditions.

3. To support the planning and decision-making by parliament, government, administrative and legal organs.

4. To provide a better supply of information for individual citizens and social groups and above all to improve their cooperation in various areas of social life.

As already stated in the preceding paragraphs, the major goal of the governments in Eastern and Southern Africa, is to satisfy the fundamental basic needs of their people and to alleviate the poverty of all their populations. To carry out this goal these countries have outlined several objectives. Among them being:

a. Increasing agricultural production

b. Protection of crops and animal health.

c. Control of population

d. Conservation and improvement of land already under cultivation and the development of new land.

e. Checking urbanisation process and improving conditions in the rural areas.

f. Water development for irrigation

g. Import of technology from the industrialised countries

h. Storage and preservation of agricultural products

i. Nutrition and food technology research

j. Resources and Energy development

k. Industrial growth and production

l. Development of transport and communication (already dealt with)

To achieve the stated objectives, countries in these two regions should organise information and documentation centres geared at providing processed and up to date information to facilitate each stated objective. It is recommended here that such documentation centres should perform the following functions:

a. to carry out bibliographic identification of relevant literature, rapid supply of the documents, as well as translations

b. Carrying out rapid and compact communication of knowledge and information especially in the form of progress reports, and data compilations as well as the provision of information and advice of a practical nature; mission-oriented selection and processing of the relevant information.

c. Making available subject information in non-technical and easily accessible form for the media to disseminate and also directly for individual people and social groups.

d. Fulfilling the provision of national information services relevant to present needs and capable of development to meet the future needs of generators, processors, disseminators, and users of information.

e. To optimise the utilisation of existing information services and to develop new ones.

f. To promote national and international cooperation and liaison for exchange of information.

g. To provide support and active encouragement for the development of facilities for education and training in information science and technology and in communication to provide qualified manpower for the implimentation of national information policies.

The development of information activities in these two regions, must lead to services, which, in their preparation and presentation, their coverage and selection, their accessibility and cost, provide information which is both oriented to the specific and to the often changing needs of different social groups.

Information and Documentation Services in Achieving the Stated Objectives

The importance of information and documentation services to economic and social progress is being appreciated to an increasingly large extent by those responsible for policy making in the countries of the two regions. The possibilities open to these countries to avail themselves of information for development planning, economic and industrial development are, with only a few exceptions, very restricted. Infrastructure, organisation, expertise and financial means are "inadequate". Measures of international organisations such as UNESCO, designed to improve the information services in these countries can prove to be effective only if the international programmes and the initiative of these countries can be effectively supported by the industrial societies.

Within the two regions, progress in research, and technological development in industry, administration and politics depends decisively on the extent to which information and knowledge can be made available, quickly in a compact and relevant form and also practically applied. Research and technological development must provide the base for improved living conditions of people in the two regions. Their findings should contribute to a greater efficiency to the economies of the countries within the regions and the solution of social problems. It is therefore important to extend and improve technical information services thus increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of Research and Development and speeding up innovation. The inter-disciplinary exchange of information and the inter-relationship of research and teaching will assume significant importance. In the fast industrialising countries of the two regions, economic development is largely equivalent to a quantitative improvement in production. This is to be based on a rapid application of Research and Development to industrial processing. This therefore calls for efficiency in the application of the results of publicly sponsored research. One of the ways in which it could be improved is by promoting the flow of information from research to industrial practice, by using properly organised information and documentation services.

National Objectives and Information needs of Countries within Eastern and Southern Africa

The stated general objectives determine the living standards of the people of these two regions, and guidance data on these are either lacking or too general to be practically useful. The following is an outline of the information needs for achieving each stated objective.

a. Increasing Agricultural Production

In the long run, the countries within the Eastern and Southern Africa's needs in terms of Agricultural production will certainly increase. One of the major problems facing the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, is lack of enough food to feed their populations. For example, Botswana being a drought stricken country and almost a semi-desert, imports almost all of its food from outside. It is a known fact that industrialisation can be successful when a country is self-sufficient in food.

One of the main reasons for a small increase in the population of these two regions is to ensure that enough food can be supplied to meet the demand of the increased population. Despite the fact that there is some good promise in the availability of food in some countries for the next 30-40 years, at least, economic social and political problems leading to bad distribution and low productivity could make the situation worse. There is an urgent need for improved standardised information on the following:

i. Information concerning the food situation in each country should be supplied to planners in order to ensure that they manage their resources properly.

ii. Information on the best food to grow should be supplied.

iii. Information on the new varieties of food with high yield and high food value should be supplied.

iv. Information on the modern methods of farming should be available.

v. Information on storage systems and facilities should be made available.

Properly organised informaiton and documentation services in these two regions can make available the necessary information for the development of food production in these two regions.

b. Protection of crops and animal health

Many countries in these two regions are engaged in crop farming and animal husbandry. Modern intensive agriculture of high-yielding varieties brings in its train the problem of wastage caused by disease and parasites. In order to avoid considerable losses of crops, information on protective systems should be available, in order to make it possible to preserve the high yields resulting from genetic improvement and from the rational use of inputs to improve the soil.

Research information resulting from phytopathological and entomological research should be made available, as well as information resulting from research into methods of protection of high quality crop varieties. In the case of animal health, information resulting from research on those diseases that cause the greatest damage should be made available.

c. Control of population

The rate of increase of population of most of the countries in the two regions is quite high, and this is going to be a significant factor in their economics and politics in the near future. To monitor the growth of population, properly processed information should be available. Information should be documented regarding the fertility rates, the proper methods of birth control, death rates etc. Secondly, proper information should be given regarding the reasons for this rapid population increase. It is a waste of time and money trying to "cure the disease", i.e. trying to control the birth rate without finding out the reasons for this rapid population growth. I therefore suggest that the countries of these two regions should take information and documentation services seriously because it is only properly documented information that can guide decision-makers. For example, once the true population curves are predicted for most of these countries, it will be easier to allocate resources accordingly, plan their economies and industrial outputs etc.

d. Conservation and improvement of land already under cultivation and the development of new land

There is need to encourage settled farming in some countries of the two regions, e.g. Botswana, and to improve land already under cultivation, through information on soil physical features, suitability for agriculture in relation to the range of crops under consideration, fertility, and erosion control.

Information may be obtained by the following:

1. The establishment of bioclimatological centres to supply research information for further action, and for determining of crop suitability for land already under cultivation.

2. Carrying out studies on ecological conditions, etc.

e. Checking of Urbanisation Process

Many countries in the two regions are experiencing very high rates of urbanisation. The rapid increase in urban populations has serious consequences on the urban and rural areas. To plan for urban housing, schools, jobs and roads for the urban populations, proper information is needed, e.g. on the rate of rural-urban migration, reasons for rural-urban migration, urban age structures etc. I therefore recommend that information and documentation services to cater for the urbanisation process should be developed in the two regions.

f. Water Development for Irrigation

Information for water development is important to ensure the supply of water and the moisture retention necessary to support plant life. Properly sited research centres should be established in the two regions to provide information on problems of irrigation, drainage, control of flooding and desalination. Research should be geared to the use of surface and underground water for agricultural and livestock needs. Under this programme, the following projects should be undertaken:

1. Comparative study of various irrigation techniques.

2. Studies of water requirements of the important crops being cultivated.

g. Research Development and Utilisation of Improved Agricultural Techniques for both Traditional and New Crops

The aim of such a programme is to study and adopt new and improved farming techniques for the dual purpose of increasing crop yields and reducing production costs. The rational working of tropical soils must be directed at preventing soil erosion while improving permeability porosity and water conservation. Information on the techniques for the use of animal and motorised traction should be determined for each type of soil and for each type of crop, to avoid any action which might reduce yields. It would also be worthwhile incorporating into this programme measures for the control of parasitic plants harmful to crops. When the state of health of livestock has been brought effectively under control, the improvement of nutrition and stock farming must logically increase productivity.

h. Import of Technology from the Industrialised Nations

The productivity of countries in the two regions, and the income-earning opportunities associated with it depend crucially on the application of modern scientific knowledge, to the identification and generation of improved technologies and the use of technologies in the production processes. High priority should therefore be attached to scientific development and to the use of technology for the social and economic development of Eastern and Southern African countries. In addition to the generation of technology in Eastern and Southern Africa, a lot of technology is imported. As well as influencing the production factors and socio-cultural characteristics of countries in the two regions, imported technology has a strong effect on its scientific and technological potential. These influences can be advantageous or detrimental depending on the conditions under which the import takes place. The following points are intended to underline some of the key issues regarding the importation of operative technologies which are particularly relevant to the national policy-making in Science and Technology.

1. Influence of technology transfer on the overall scientific and technological development of the countries in the two regions.

2. There should be a framework for analysing technology transfer process.

3. Use and assessment of technology.

4. The international patent system and its role in the transfer of technology.

5. The transfer of operative technologies in relation to the development process.

6. Links between operative technologies in relation to the development process.

7. Policies for introduction of new technologies.

For smooth and effective transfer and assessment of technology, I suggest that national information systems to include science and technology information should be established in the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.

i. Storage and Preservation of Agricultural Products

The use of new techniques in Agricultural Production will have the effect of placing the products of large harvests on the market. This situation calls for information on crop preservation in order to reduce, if not completely eliminate wastage at all levels. The preservation of stocks of agricultural produce will provide farmers with a fair price for their produce and eliminate periods of scarcity.

j. Nutrition and Food Technology Research

Institutions should be established to provide specialised research information into traditional food practices with a view to improving them.

k. Natural Resources and Energy

The above may be interpreted to include agriculture, forests, mineral and water resources, solar energy, oil energy etc. Conservation and exploitation of natural resources will require a diverse assortment of

information needs and users. For example, planning ministries need information on good agricultural practices for preparation of soil, harvesting of crops and animal husbandry. In all these situations information to be transferred and generated include:

1. Data on the physical characteristics of the resources themselves.

2. Data on the techniques for exploiting them ordinarily. The first type of information backed up where appropriate by international hydrological, meteorological and oceanic data. Such surveys can be carried out by domestic organisations or under contract by foreign organisations if the necessary expertise is not available locally.

Further research, national or international, will provide the essential data for exploitation programme. The second type of needed natural resources information is relevant, directly or indirectly, to finding and evaluating resources, preparing plans for their exploration or exploiting or managing them. It should focus on methods and techniques, cover a wide range of possible applications including methods of locating mineral deposits and fishing grounds. evaluation of tropical forest stands, water management for irrigation, design of mineral exploitation, decisions on when and where to plant crops or how best to clear land, etc.

Technical information services are usually concentrated on the transfer of this second type of information, part of which is intended for ministries or associated institutions, many of which have limited capabilities. Assistance from appropriate regional organisations and cooperative ventures can be productive. Such organisations are already active in the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. Such organisations are useful in the sense that they serve as channels through which externally generated information flows to appropriate national organisations, and they can channel information between the national governments in the two regions.

I. Industrial Growth and Production

The industries of the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, are growing rapidly and production of various commodities by these industries is also growing. Manufacturing and commerce play a major role in expanding

incomes and alleviation of poverty. These sectors if they grow more rapidly than the economies as a whole, could be important sources for the creation of income-earning opportunities for these countries and their growing labourforce.

It therefore follows that countries in these two regions need processed technical information for the formulation of industrial objectives and the determination of appropriate national development strategies. Consequent on determination of such strategy and the priorities to be accorded to various production sectors, appropriate industrial technologies should be selected and applied in the context of the situations prevailing in the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. For this purpose the capacity fo institutions might need to be strengthened in Botswana in order that appropriate choices were made on an informal basis. Such choice would involve taking several factors into account, such as the size of the potential market, the optimal utilization of natural resources and the exercise of national sovereignity in such utilization, role of the public and private sectors, approrpriate sales of production, the desirability of geographic dispersal; capital and labour intensity of various techniques and processes; use of appropriate sources of energy, technical efficiency; availability of trained manpower, and the impact on the environment. Technological choice should not be confined to production techniques only, but should include management methods and other aspects of industrial operations. "Simple" technologies, to the extent that they tended to serve a specific objective, might be utilised, provided, however, that their application was conducive to techno-economic growth and did not result in a stagnation in industrial skills and income of workers. Neither should the use of such technologies have the effect of continuing or worsening the technological backwardness of the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. Such options can be successful, only by utilising processed technical information.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUDING REMARKS

As we can gather from the previous chapters, information and Documentation services in Eastern and Southern Africa, will continue to grow. The need for these services to be improved is beginning to be felt very much. However, the introduction or further expansion of information and documentation services in these two regions is beset by a number of problems, the most important of which can be identified and summarised as:

1. **Personnel**

At present in most of the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, there is a great shortage of trained information and documentation personnel. Fortunately this problem is being realised by international organisations, such as FID, UNESCO, IDRC, etc., who have given it the priority it deserves in their programmes. A fundamental problem here, is in many cases, one of attitudes. For example, the information scientist is frequently mistaken for an untrained library clerk by the users and all too often this feeling extends to management and is reflected in low status and salaries - factors hardly likely to attract newcomers to the profession.

2. **Communications**

In Eastern and Southern Africa, information and documentation services are scattered throughout the country. This problem is frequently exacerbated by poor telephone and postal services and inadequate road or rail links. This isolation not only delays postal and other communications, but also, cut off from their peers in this way, it is difficult for young, newly trained information workers to develop their full potential.

3. **Organisation**

The uncoordinated, piecemeal development of government institutions and frequent reorganisation in many countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, has resulted in duplication of effort and dissipation of resources. The "coordination of all services involved in the provision of information" as laid down in UNESCO's National Information System (NATIS) guidelines proves extremely difficult when information dissemination is the task of so many different ministries and departments.

4. Resources

Despite recent improvements in library holdings in some places, most countries in these two regions suffer from a lack of easy access to many important books and journals. When a journal is available, it may well only be held in one or two libraries in a country. For example in a survey of the availability of tropical agriculture journals in Nigerian libraries, Lawani, S.M. found the proportion of titles not available in the country was even higher for those titles published in Africa, than for those published in industrialised countries, thus underlining the organisational and distribution difficulties of African publishers. A further point to emerge from Lawani's study was the language problem. Eighty percent of the Spanish and Portugese titles were not available in Nigeria, although all the journals in Portugese were from countries (Brazil, Mozambique, Angola, etc.) with very similar ecological conditions to Nigeria. The dominant position of English language publications, and the relative importance of French, Spanish and Portugese material tends to create a language barrier for many users in Eastern and Southern Africa, where translation facilities are suaully not easily available.

5. Finance

The severely limited financial means of most documentation and information centres in these two regions is self-evident. The problem is made worse by the exchange control regulations of many countries and the relatively high cost of journals, books and information services from the industrialised countries. Unfortunately, many sectors of management and all but a few (e.g. IDRC) of the aid-giving organisations do not seem to fully appreciate the vital importance of supporting information services. It should, however, not be thought that if the financial problem is solved the others will fade into insignificance. Even in some countries with finance, where spectacular steps have been taken in recent years to advance information and documentation development, there are still severe personnel and organisational problems.

To summarise, I must suggest that international information services must support information and documentation centres, and promote their development into real "centres of excellence", so that they become places in the world for information. In many cases, improvements in internal and external communications and coordination of services within countries or regions are vital, if national

and regional centres are to achieve these aims. Whilst a national centre can effectively concentrate resources and expertise, if it is to remain viable, it must be the centre of an efficient national network. For example, in these two regions, Agriculture will maintain its priority position in the economic and social development and the need for information services will increase. It is only by close cooperation between countries in these two regions and industrialised countries that this challenge can successfully be met.

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    (a) Ms. Mathokoza Jiyane
    University of Swaziland - Library

    (b) Joseph Jabulani Uta
    Librarian
    Kamuzu College of Nursing

    (c) James Mwangi Ng'ang'a
    Librarian
    Kenyatta University College
    Kenya

    (d) E. Victoria Chiduo
    Librarian
    University of Dar es Salaam

(e) B.L.B. Mushonga
Librarian
Zimbabwe National Archives

(f) Marie Consuelo Benoit
Lecturer
The University of Mauritius

(g) Justin Kiyimba
Librarian
Organisation for the Management and Development of the Kagera River Basin

(h) K.J. Michombu
Training Officer
Tanzania Library Service

(i) Aldo Mkessa
Librarian
Eastern and Southern African Management Institute
Arusha

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Khartoum - Sudan

(k) J.S. Dlamini
Director
Swaziland National Archives

(l) R.S. Mabomba
National Library, Lilongwe
Malawi

(m) M. Moshoeshoe
National Library
Lesotho

(n) W.C. Mushipi
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ALPHABETICAL INDEX

Angola - 32, 33, 121
ABC - 89, 94
AGRIS - 76
Association - 47
Bibliographic Control - 4, 74, 88
Bibliographic work - 29
Botswana - 1, 33, 86
Botswana National Library - 34
Botswana Technology Centre - 37

Communications - 120
Control of Population - 114
Coordination - Information Services - 75, 76
Co-operation - 8 Regional - 79
Consolidation - Information - 82
CRIt - 20, 91, 92

Documentation Activities - 85
Documentation Centre - 18, 24, 29, 65, 102, 109
- National - 25, 83

Documentation Services - Status - Eastern and Southern Africa - iv, 1, 5, 28, 66, 69, 75, 109, 112.

Documentation Unit - 36

Documentation Work - 96

Depository Law - Uganda - 17

DSE - 89, 90, 92, 93.

Eastern Africa - i, iii, iv, vi, 1, 65, 74, 75, 85, 88, 89 96, 100, 107, 109, 113

ECARBICA - 90

ESAMI - 16, 91

Formulation - Information Policies - 102, 104

Finance - 121

Future development - Information Services - 109

Future financing - Information Services - 107

Future-On-line Systems - 99

Future Prospects - Information and Documentation Services - 96

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

German Foundation - iii, 20, 90, 92

Geological Survey Library - Botswana - 34, 38

Harmonisation - activities - International organisations - 94, 95

ICRAGAT - 79

IDRC - 60, 93

Import of technology - 116

Industrial growth and Production - 118

Information Experts Meeting - (iii)

Information - Africa - New developments - 98

Information - Policy - formualtion - 104

Information Services - (i) iv, 1, 5, 28, 66, 69, 75, 109, 112

Information System - 80

Information Training - 85

Information Work - computerisation - 96

INFOTERRA - 25, 85

INSDOC - 92

International Organisations - 94

ISAS - 44

Irrigation - 115

Joint Acquisition - Information - 78

Joint research - 78

Joint subscription - 78

Joint University · Government Archives Project - Lesotho - 43

KADCC - 6

Kenya National Library Service - 2

Latest Developments - Information Services - Mauritius - 64

Learning Resources Centres - Kenya - 9

Lesotho - National Library Service - 38 National Archives - 38

Libraries - Academic - 1, 9, 31, 48
Public - 2, 38, 31, 48

Special - 3, 31, 46
School - 4, 26, 45

Lines of Development - Information and Documentation Services - 96

Malawi - 1, 45

Mauritius - 1, 57

MANLIS - 59, 61

Manpower - 7 - Situation - Kenya - 10

Media Centre - Lesotho - 42

Mount Makulu Agricultural Research Library - Zambia - 55

MSIRI - 64

National Archives - Kenya - 6, Botswana 35, Malawi, 45, Swaziland - 48, Zambia - 53

National Committee for Information Services - Sudan - 28

National Documentation Centre - Sudan - 25

National Free University of Zimbabwe - 67

National Library Service - Botswana - 34

NIDAD - University of Botswana - 36, 37

National Information Policy - Tanzania - 16

National Information System - Malawi - 47

National Objectives and Information needs - Eastern and Southern Africa - 113

National University of Lesotho Library - 42

NORAD - 94

Nutrition and Food Technology Research - 117

On-Line Systems - 99

Organization - Information Services - 120

PADIS - 98

Personnel - 120

Private Sector Information and Documentation Services - Zimbabwe - 69

Protection of Crops and Animal Health - 114

Regional and National Systems - Development - 100

Regional Cooperation - 79

Research Development - 116

Resources - 121

Resource Sharing - regional - 77

SADCC - 80, 81, 82, 101, 102, 32, 33, 87

SADIS - vi, 80, 81, 82, 83, 102

Status - Information and Documentation Services - Eastern and Southern Africa - iv, 1

Storage and Preservation of agricultural products - 117

Sudan - 24

Swaziland - 48

Tanzania - 1

TANRIS - 12, 13, 14

TALIS - 14

UNESCO - v, 25, 61, 89, 90, 95, 102

Uganda - 17

UNDP - 20, 95

UNIDO - 25

UNISIST - 78

UNECA - 98

Water Development for Irrigation - 115

Zambia - 1, 52

Zimbabwe - 1, 66

ZANU - PF - 79, 101